

Women Through the Ages: Breaking New Ground



I have met brave women who are exploring the outer edge of human possibility, with no history to guide them, and with a courage to make themselves vulnerable that I find moving beyond words.

- Francine Klagsbrun, Author



Fairfax County
Commission For Women

*This booklet is dedicated to all the women who have
made history and to those women and girls
who will mark history tomorrow.*

Fairfax County Commission For Women

*Compiled and Designed
by
Karen E. Horn
Administrative Assistant
Fairfax County Office For Women
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FOREWORD

A Long Road Toward Equality

In the 16th century, women and girls were considered unequal to men in all aspects of life, even to the extent of not being allowed to eat until after the men had eaten. Women also only had a life expectancy of an average of 25 years compared to men's life expectancy an average of 40 years. By the 19th century, women weren't fairing much better and women's life expectancy was only 35 because of continued childbirth.

Up until "modern" history, women were prevented from learning anything but the most elemental reading and writing. In 1829, the suggestion that women be taught geometry in the United States was vilified by the press and members of academia. A 1888 study published by former Surgeon General, Dr. William Hammon, stated "that the female brain was measurably inferior to a man's." The laws of most states held that a girl was emotionally and mentally mature enough to consent to sexual relations by the age of 12 or 14 and yet a women of 18 or 21 was considered incapable of making informed decisions about her social or economic well-being. Employment ads in newspapers were segregated as to man and woman positions with the higher paying positions being advertised for men only.

Changes in attitudes have come slowly. It took a five-year campaign and three and half years of litigation before the Supreme Court to prohibit sex segregated employment ads in 1973. As recently as 1970, the Ohio Supreme court held that a wife was "at most a superior servant to her husband...only chattel with no personality, no property, and no legally recognized feelings or rights." In 1974, the Georgia legislature approved a statute which defined the husband as "head of the family" with the "wife...subject to him; her legal existence...merged in the husband, except as so far as the law recognizes her separately, either for her own protection, her own benefit, or for the preservation of the public order." Women's use of finances and home ownership were tied to her spouse. Only in the last century could American women vote.

Throughout history, women have been taught, whether overtly or by suggestion, that they are inferior to men. At the beginning of the new millennium, women have proven time and again that no job, field, or endeavor is beyond their capabilities -- even while their overall earnings are 75 cents to every dollar a man earns. It is important to understand the history of women who have accomplished so much, against the odds, and improved the lives of everyone.

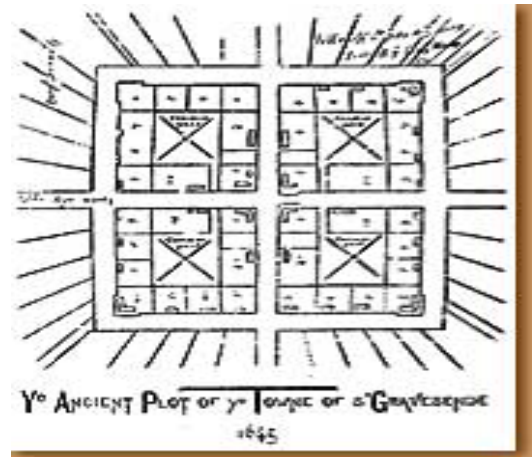
This guide is arranged by field in chronological order.

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I never doubted that equal rights was the right direction. Most reforms, most problems are complicated. But to me there is nothing complicated about ordinary equality.

-Alice Paul

Deborah Moody – 1645 She was the first woman to receive a colonial land grant and in 1655 was the first woman to cast a vote. She was granted land by the Dutch government in Kings County, NY which is now Brooklyn. This land grant became the only permanent settlement, known as Gravesend, in early colonial America that was planned and directed by a woman.



1645 plot map of Gravesend

New Jersey – 1776 New Jersey was the first colony/state to grant women the right to vote. The Constitution of the new state granting women the right to vote was passed on July 2, 1776. The right was revoked in 1807.

Peggy (Margaret) O'Neale Eaton – 1829 She was the first and only woman whose virtue was the subject of a Cabinet meeting. The daughter of a tavern keeper, Peggy O'Neale became the wife of John Henry Eaton, Secretary of War and a member of President Andrew Jackson's Cabinet. As early as 1821 Peggy became the object of Washington gossip because at the time she was married to John Timberlake she was also romantically linked to Eaton, then senator from Tennessee. Shortly after Timberlake died in 1828, O'Neale and Eaton married. Rumors surrounding Peggy Eaton persisted and the Cabinet members held a meeting in September 1829 to discuss the issue of her virtue. President Jackson declared her innocent after the session and mandated that any Cabinet member who disapproved of her resign. His mandate and the squabbling between the Cabinet members soon became public knowledge. There were several resignations as a result including that of John Eaton. In 1936, Hollywood made a movie about this famous scandal entitled *The Gorgeous Hussy*.

Fanny Wright – 1829 She was the first female public speaker. She began a lecturing tour in which she spoke against the second class status of women, called for equal education for girls, equal property rights for women, fairer divorce laws and accessible birth control. She was often denounced and the press characterized her as a "female monster whom all decent people ought to avoid."

Esther Hobart McQuigg Slack Morris – 1870 She was the first woman to hold an official governmental position. She was appointed Justice of the Peace for South Pass City, part of the Wyoming Territory. In the eight and half months that she held the position she tried more than 70 cases without reversal.



Victoria Woodhull

Victoria Woodhull - 1872 She was the first woman to run for president. The Equal Rights Party nominated her as its candidate for president. Her campaign came to an end when she was arrested for publishing obscene material, an expose she published in her paper that revealed an adulterous affair between clergyman Henry Ward Beecher and a parishioner.



Lime Rock Lighthouse

Ida (Idawalley) Zoradia Lewis – 1879 She was the first woman to be an official U.S. Lighthouse keeper. She became the de facto keeper of the Lime Rock Lighthouse, near Newport, Rhode Island, in 1857 when her father, the official keeper, had a stroke. In 1879, the federal government named her the official keeper. She manned the lighthouse until her death in 1911.

Mary F. Hoyt – 1883 She was the first woman to be a Civil Service appointee. The Civil Service Act or Pendleton Act created system of federal employment based on merit and examination scores rather than political patronage. The first civil service exams were

held on July 12, 1883. Hoyt received the highest score and on September 5, 1883 she became the first woman and the second person to be appointed to a federal position under the provisions of the act. A letter from President Eisenhower on her 100th birthday stated “a door was opened to a new world of careers for women in our land and you were the first to enter it.”

Wyoming -- 1890 Wyoming was admitted to the Union with woman suffrage as part of its constitution.

Thousands of police officers have Stephanie Louise Kwolek to thank for saving their lives. Ms. Kwolek was the Dupont chemist that discovered the liquid crystalline polymer solution known as Kevlar in 1971.

Kwolek originally wanted to study medicine but did not have the money to enter medical school. She took the job at Dupont as a temporary measure but found that she enjoyed the work and stayed with Dupont for 40 years.

In 1965, Ms. Kwolek discovered liquid crystal polymers. After much coaxing, she convinced a lab assistant to spin the solution. The fiber that resulted was not only very strong, it was very stiff.

Kwolek patented the process for making this unique fiber called Kevlar. She assigned the patent to Dupont, but received a generous bonus and a promotion -- her first since joining Dupont fifteen years earlier.

Ms. Kwolek and her lab team continued to study Kevlar. They discovered that it was lighter than asbestos and stronger than steel. It could be turned into yarn, pulp, paper, pellets, and thread. Today Kevlar is made into inflatable boats, sail cloth, parachutes, even building materials as well as radial tires, airplanes, space vehicles, and bullet proof vests.

Colorado – 1893 Colorado passed state suffrage referendum and both the Republican and Populist parties organized women's divisions for the first election in which women could vote

Marie Owen – 1893 She was the first woman to be employed by a police department. She was named to the Chicago Bureau of Police. The Chicago City Council passed an ordinance giving her the title and pay of “Patrolman.” This was a highly unusual act by the City Council, until Owens, women were usually appointed as matrons. Owens was assigned to visit the various courts and lockups and assist detectives with cases involving women and children. Although Owens carried the title of “Patrolman,” she carried no arrest powers and did not wear a uniform. Chicago policewomen wouldn't be allowed to wear uniforms until 1957



Photo of Marie Owens Police Badge

Kate Barnard – 1907 She was the first woman in the United States that was voted into a statewide elective office by an all-male electorate. She served as Oklahoma's first Commissioner on Charities and Corrections. Elected to office at a time when women could not vote, she took on some very unpopular issues and ensured compulsory education and child labor laws were part of Oklahoma's state constitution.



Alice Stebbins Wells
Photo courtesy of Women Peace
Officers Association of California

Alice Wells – 1910 She was first sworn police woman. In order to become a police officer, she secured signatures of many prominent citizens on a petition which she then presented to the Los Angeles City Council. Although originally assigned to Juvenile Probation, her duties were extended to include enforcing laws which concerned dance halls, skate rinks, penny arcades, movies and other places of recreation attended by women and children. The Department's juvenile bureaus and crime prevention units can be traced back to the foundations that she laid.

Alice Wells also toured more than 100 cities in the United States and Canada to promote the cause of female officers. Most of the cities that she visited appointed women as police officers following her stay. New York and Massachusetts even enacted legislation which required towns with populations over 20,000 to employ at least one policewoman.

Alice Hamilton – 1910 She became director of the Illinois' Occupational Disease Committee. The Commission's investigations resulted in passage of a state worker's compensation law and set the precedent that employees were entitled to monetary recompense when health was injured as a result of their jobs. Dr. Hamilton became director of the Occupational Disease Commission when it was created by the governor of Illinois in 1910. It was the first such commission in the world.



Following the report on workers' compensation she gave to an international meeting in Brussels, Hamilton was asked by the U.S. Commissioner of Labor to replicate her research on a national level but was not offered a salary. She looked at the hazards posed by exposure to lead, arsenic, mercury, organic solvents, as well as radium, which was used in the manufacture of watch dials. She remained in this unsalaried position until 1921 when her program was cancelled after pro-business Republicans regained control of the White House.

Julia Clifford Lathrop – 1912 She was the first woman to head a statutory federal agency at the appointment of a President. President Taft appointed her to head the Children's Bureau where she undertook a study of infant mortality and developed a plan for uniform birth registration.

Harriet Quimby – 1912 She was the first woman to be authorized to fly U.S. mail. The Postmaster General authorized her to deliver mail from Squantum Airfield near Boston to begin on July 7, 1912. She never got to assume her position due to an accident at the Third Annual Boston Aviation meet which took her life and that of her passenger.

Jane Addams – 1912 She was the first woman to make a nomination speech at a national political convention when she spoke at the convention for the Progressive Party. In 1931, She was the first woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for her dedication to the cause of peace and justice for all. She was the founder of Chicago's Hull House which became a model for settlement houses throughout the U.S. and generated programs of education in childcare, English, fine arts, health and nursery and playground supervision. She also helped to found the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in 1920.



Harriet Quimby

Annette Abbott Adams – 1914 She was the first woman to be assistant U.S. Attorney – Northern District, California. In 1918, she was the first woman to be U.S. district attorney – San Francisco. In 1920 she was the first woman to hold office as U.S. Assistant Attorney General. She earned her J.D. degree in 1912 from the University of California Berkeley, the only woman in her graduating class.

Estelle Lawton Lindsey – 1915 She was the first woman to be acting mayor of a major city. She was elected in June 1915 as the only woman on the Los Angeles City Council. In the absence of both the mayor and the president of the council she was elected president pro tempore, automatically making her acting mayor ex officio.

Gladys Dick – 1918 Founder of what is thought to be the first professional organization for the adoption of children in U.S., The Cradle Society of Evanston, Illinois. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Nebraska and received her medical degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. In 1911, she went to the University of Chicago where she conducted research on scarlet fever and kidney function. In 1923, she and her husband isolated the strain of streptococcus that causes scarlet fever. In 1924, they introduced the Dick Test, a skin test for detecting susceptibility to the disease.



Cleveland Public Library
Main Branch

Kathryn Sellers – 1918 She was the first woman to head a juvenile court when President Woodrow Wilson appointed her head judge of the DC Juvenile Court. She had previously worked for the U.S. Weather Bureau as a meteorological

clerk until she began her law studies in 1910.

Linda A. Eastman – 1918 She was the first woman to head a metropolitan library system when she was unanimously elected director of the Cleveland Public Library System. She helped develop adult education programs, the open shelf system, school and children's libraries and a book distribution program for shut-ins.



Helen H. Gardener

Helen Hamilton Gardener – 1920 She was the first woman to serve on any federal commission when President Wilson appointed her to serve on the U.S. Civil Service Commission. It was the highest federal position occupied by a woman at that time. She came to wide attention in 1888 with her carefully researched refutation of a widely publicized claim by Dr. William Hammon, a former Surgeon General, that the female brain was measurably inferior to a man entitled "Sex In Brain." To help provide female brains for further research she willed her brain to Cornell University, a wish that was carried out upon her death in 1925.

Laura Clay – 1920 She was the first woman to receive a vote to be the presidential nominee of a major political party. At the 1920 Democratic convention Laura Clay became the first woman to receive any votes for either president or vice president at a major party's national convention. She received one vote for president on the 34th ballot. Clay was also an early advocate of women's rights and at the 1890 Kentucky Constitutional Convention, a major address by Laura Clay proposed a provision to give women property rights and suffrage. It failed.



Laura Clay



Mary Anderson

Mary Anderson – 1920 She became the first director of Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor. Mary Anderson was a tireless champion of women in the workplace and as Director of the Women's Bureau for a quarter century; she was the most influential of all women in federal service. Her leadership established her as the nation's foremost authority in the struggle for women's rights and the improvement of their lives and working conditions.

Grace Abbott – 1922 She was the first woman to serve as an unofficial delegate to the League of Nations. She was an unofficial delegate because the United States was not a member. She served as a delegate to the Advisory Committee on Traffic in Women and Children.

Marie Caroline Brehm – 1924 She was the first woman nominated by a recognized political party. The Prohibition Party nominated her as a candidate for Vice President.

Bertha Ethel Knight Landes – 1926 she was the first woman mayor of a major U.S. city. She was elected mayor of Seattle on a campaign agenda that included environmental goals, police training, hospitals, and recreation facilities.



Grace Abbott

Genevieve Cline – 1928 She was the first woman appointed a U.S. federal judge, an appointment that ended a 139 year U.S. history that saw no woman or person of color on the bench. She was appointed by Calvin Coolidge to the U.S. Customs Court and served until 1953.

Hattie Ophelia Wyatt Caraway – 1932 She was the first woman elected to the Senate. In her second campaign (1938) she received votes that totaled that of all six of her male opponents. She also became the first woman to preside over the Senate, the first congresswoman to endorse the Equal Rights Amendment, the first woman to chair a Senate Committee (Committee on Enrolled Bills) and the first woman to serve as President Pro Tem. For all of her accomplishments her portrait was not hung in the Arkansas State Capital until 1993.

Minnie Davenport Craig – 1933 She was the first female speaker of a legislative body in the U.S. She was first elected to the North Dakota House of Representatives in 1923 and served as Speaker of the House from 1933 to 1935.

Frances Perkins – 1933 She was the first woman to attain cabinet rank when she became Secretary of Labor. In 1911, she led the lobbying effort that resulted in state legislation in New York on factory safety standards. In 1913, she led the lobbying effort on hour and wage standards. In 1926, she was appointed by New York governor Alfred E. Smith as the New York State Industrial Commissioner, becoming the highest paid state employee making \$8,000 a year. She was a strong advocate of limited work hours, a



Hattie Ophelia Wyatt Caraway



Frances Perkins

minimum wage, and workers' rights to organize into unions and was instrumental in writing many acts for reform including the Social Security Act (1935) and the Fair Labor Standards Act (1938). The building that houses the Department of Labor was dedicated as the Frances Perkins building in 1980 to honor her contributions.

Ruth Bryan Owen (Rohde) – 1933 She was the first woman diplomat to represent the United States in a foreign country. She was appointed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to Denmark and Iceland. She had previously served in Congress representing Florida's Fourth District where she sponsored the proposal designating the Florida Everglades as a National Park.

Grace Langdon – 1933 She became the first head of a federal agency designed for the care of children of working mothers when she was appointed as Child Care Director of Works Projects Administration (WPA). Her establishment of 2,000 plus WPA child care nurseries (at least one in every state) was an achievement of extraordinary skill. Organized child care was still novel at the time and the idea of publicly provided childcare for preschool children still isn't accepted today. The WPA network was abolished in 1943

Mary McLeod Bethune – 1935 She was the first African American woman appointed to head a federal agency. From 1936 to 1944 she held the position of Director of the Division of Negro Affairs of the National Youth Administration, making her the first African-American woman to become the head of a Federal agency. Black advisors had been appointed for each federal agency, but their power was minimal. Bethune wanted to see African-Americans fully integrated into American life so she gathered a group of prominent men at her apartment in Washington for the first of many informal discussions. Because she had access to the president, she was able to take the suggestions made by this group to him, and saw more blacks appointed to advisory positions. Her group became the Federal Council on Negro Affairs, and was known as the "Black Cabinet". As a member and a leader of this group, Bethune served as an unofficial advisor to President Roosevelt. After World War II, she was one of three African-American consultants to the U.S. delegation involved in developing the United Nations charter. Bethune served as the personal representative of President Truman at the inauguration ceremonies in Liberia in 1952.



Mary M. Bethune



Crystal Bird Fauset

Mary Williams (Molly) Dewson – 1937 She was the first woman to serve on the Social Security Board. She also lobbied for a national minimum wage bill and having more women appointed to high political positions in Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration.

Crystal Bird Fauset – 1938 She was the first black woman elected to a state legislature. She was elected to represent the 13th District of Philadelphia in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.



Margaret Chase Smith

Margaret Chase Smith – 1940 She was the first woman elected to both houses of Congress. She served eight years in the House of Representatives and twenty-four in the Senate. She was the first senator to challenge Senator Joseph McCarthy's anti-communism crusade on the Senate floor



Ida Fuller – 1940 She was the first person to receive a social security check. She was the first of 3,700 men and women to receive checks at that time. The amount of the check was \$22.54.

Dorothy V. Bush – 1944 She was the first woman to be an officer for either major national political party. She served as secretary under 17 chairs of the Deomocratic party – she offered her resignation to each new party chair but each time it was rejected. The Secretary was responsible for roll call of the states at each nominating function and keeping the vote count for presidential nominees.

Georgia Neese Clark

Georgia Neese Clark – 1948 She was the first woman treasurer of U.S. While this is largely a ceremonial post her signature became the first feminine name to appear on United States Currency. All treasurers since have been women.

Frieda B. Hennock – 1948 She was the first woman to be appointed to the Federal Communications Commission. Her major accomplishment while on the Commission was getting 242 television stations reserved for educational and noncommercial use.

Eugenie Moore Anderson – 1949 She was the first woman to serve as ambassador. She was appointed by President Truman as ambassador to Denmark. She was also the first woman to sign a commercial treaty when she acted on behalf of the U.S. Government in agreements on commerce, friendship, and navigation. Before Anderson, no women in diplomatic postings held an office higher than minister. She also served as envoy to Bulgaria, representative to the United Nations, and special assistant to the Secretary of State.

Martha Griffiths – 1954 she was the first woman to be a member of the U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee. During her time on the Committee she advocated for tax reform and pursued legislation to repeal the excise tax on cars, provide tax relief for single parents, and reduce social security taxes paid by low-income families. She was also instrumental during her time in Congress in including women in the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which outlawed discrimination in voting, access to public education, employment, public accommodations, and federally assisted programs on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity or religion.



Civil Rights Act of 1964

Patricia Roberts Harris – 1964 she became the first black woman ambassador when President Johnson named her as ambassador to Luxembourg. In 1979 she became the first woman to hold two cabinet positions. In 1977, she was appointed Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and in 1979 she was appointed Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. She was also the first black woman to serve in the United Nations, on major corporate boards, to chair a national political party committee, to participate in a presidential nomination, to serve as dean of a law school and she was the first black and only woman to serve in three cabinet level positions.



Patsy Mink

Patsy Mink – 1965 She was the first woman of Asian descent to serve in Congress. She served as a Representative from Hawaii for twelve terms. She also played a key role in enacting Title IX, introduced the first comprehensive Early Childhood Education Act, and authored the Women's Educational Equity Act.

Jane Cahill Pfeiffer – 1966 She was the first woman to be a White House fellow. The Fellows Program provides gifted and highly motivated young Americans with some first hand experience in the process of governing a nation. In 1978, she also became the first woman to head a major television network, when she was named Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of NBC.



Virginia Mae Brown

Elizabeth Duncan Koontz – 1967 She became the first African American President of the National Education Association. In 1969, she became the first African-American woman appointed by a President. President Nixon named her to head the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor, where she served until 1973.

Shirley Chisholm – 1968 She was the first black woman elected to the House of Representatives. The daughter of Caribbean immigrants, she ran for the newly apportioned congressional seat representing the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn. In 1976 she was appointed to the House Rules Committee, the first woman and first black to serve on this committee.

Virginia Mae Brown – 1969 She became the first woman to head an independent administrative agency of the federal government when she was named as Chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission. She previously served as the Assistant Attorney General of West Virginia, the first woman to do so.



Bella Abzug

Bella Savitsky Abzug – 1971 She was the first Jewish woman elected to House of Representatives. She was instrumental in getting the Fair Credit Act and Title IX passed by Congress. She also co-authored the Freedom of Information Act and the Water Pollution Act of 1972. She was the first person in Congress to call for the impeachment of Richard Nixon.

Secret Service -1971 The Secret Service recruited their first women agents as a result of a directive issued by Richard Nixon in 1970 urging the appointment of more women to responsible government positions.



Jane W. Currie & Janene E. Gordon –1971 They were the first two women to be appointed as inspectors of the 234 year old USPS. They had to complete a 12 week course which included training in Karate and the use of firearms

Anne L. Armstrong – 1971 She was the first woman to be national co-chair of the Republican Party. In 1972, she was the first woman to have full cabinet status as counselor to the president. In 1972, she was the first woman to deliver the keynote address at a major party's national convention. In 1976, she was the first woman to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain

Barbara Jordan – 1972 She was the first African American woman from the south elected to the House of Representatives. In 1976 she was the first woman and first African American to open the Democratic National Convention and deliver its keynote address



Barbara Jordan

Joanne E. Pierce & Susan Lynn Roley – 1972 They were the first women special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, J. Edgar Hoover, head of the FBI had forbidden women to be agents during his 40 year tenure. After his death, Acting Director L. Patrick Gray III changed the policy. Out of the first 30 woman to apply they were the first two to succeed



Ella Grasso

Theodora Nathan – 1973 She was the first woman to receive an electoral vote. Ms. Nathan of Oregon was the Libertarian Party's vice-presidential candidate.

Joan Wyatt – 1973 She was the first woman prison guard in a maximum security prison for men. She was appointed as a guard at the Iowa State Penitentiary on February 1, 1973. One convict immediately filed a suit, charging that her presence "inflames the passions of the prisoners." On March 31, 1973 a federal district judge dismissed the suit.

Ella Grasso – 1974 She was the first woman elected governor (Connecticut) solely on her own merit. All previous women governors had been wives of former governors. While serving as Governor, she often visited factories and housing complexes to see firsthand what types of changes were necessary to improve conditions.

Carla Anderson Hills – 1975 She was the first woman to be Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). She was serving as an Assistant District Attorney when she was nominated by President Ford. Her lack of relevant experience was controversial during the confirmation hearings but did not prevent her from being confirmed. She served until President Carter took office in 1977.

Pauline Fredrick – 1976 She was the first woman to moderate a presidential debate. She was the moderator for the second debate between President Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter which took place on October 6, 1976.

Eleanor Holmes Norton – 1977 She was the first woman to chair the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission when she was appointed by President Carter. She has also served as the District of Columbia's elected non-voting delegate to congress since 1991.



Eleanor Holmes Norton

Nancy Landon Kassebaum – 1978 She was the first woman elected to U.S. Senate who did not succeed her husband into office. She ran for the seat being vacated by the retiring Kansas senator for whom she was a staff member.

Jeanne Kirkpatrick – 1981 She was the United States' first female ambassador to the United Nations. She was chosen by President Ronald Reagan for her staunch, rigid anti-communist stance.

Carol Esserman – 1981 She was the first woman police officer to kill a suspect in the line of duty. She fatally shot Robert L. Greene in the back as he attempted to escape arrest. She and her partner were indicted by the Bronx district attorney who charged there was no evidence Greene had a gun or a shot was fired at the officers. They were suspended without pay pending trial and they were acquitted February 1, 1983.



Sandra Day
O'Connor

Sandra Day O'Connor – 1981 first woman Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. With her appointment President Ronald Reagan fulfilled a campaign promise to appoint a woman to the U.S. Supreme Court. In her Senate confirmation hearings, O'Connor expressed cautiously conservative views on capital punishment, the rule excluding illegally obtained evidence from trials, and busing for desegregation, while declining to be pinned down on the question of abortion. On September 15, 1981, seventeen of the eighteen members of the Judiciary Committee recommended her approval. One voted "present" because O'Connor had declined to condemn the Supreme Court's 1973 abortion decision, *Roe v. Wade*. The Senate confirmed her appointment 99-0, and O'Connor took the oath of office September 26, 1981. When she began her first term in October, O'Connor brought to

the Court experience from service in all three branches of government and was the only sitting justice who had been elected to public office.

Geraldine Ferraro – 1984 She was the first woman nominated for vice-president by major political party. She ran on the Democratic ticket with Walter Mondale.

Wilma Mankiller – 1985 She was the first woman to serve as principal chief of any major Native American tribe. The last name Mankiller was adopted by a male ancestor and indicated Cherokee military ranking.



Wilma Mankiller



Penny Harrington

Penny Harrington – 1985 She was the first woman appointed Police Chief of a major city. She was a member of the Portland Oregon police department for 23 years before her appointment to Chief. When she joined the force in 1964 women had to have college degrees while men only needed GEDs, they were paid less and confined to women's division, they were not allowed to take promotional exams, transfer to other divisions or wear a uniform. That did not change until 1972. Harrington was the first police chief to have a child while serving as police chief.

Susan R. Estrich – 1987 She was the first woman to manage a major presidential campaign. She managed democratic nominee Michael Dukakis's unsuccessful bid for President.

Antonia C. Novello – 1990 She was the first woman and the first Hispanic to be appointed Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service. She was sworn in on March 9, 1990 by Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. During her tenure, she helped form national policy on issues such as AIDS and smoking. She resigned when Bill Clinton was elected President so that he could make his own appointment.

Carol Mosely Braun – 1992 She was the first African American Woman elected to U.S. Senate. Ms. Braun was a civil servant from Chicago when she defeated incumbent Alan J. Dixon in the democratic primaries, she then beat her Republican opponent, Rich Williamson, by a wide margin. In 1995, she was appointed to the Senate Finance Committee, another first for women.



Antonia C. Novello



Madeline K. Albright

Madeline K. Albright – 1997 she was the first woman Secretary of State and the highest ranking woman in the history of the United States Government. She was nominated by President Bill Clinton on December 5, 1996 and unanimously confirmed by the Senate on January 23, 1997.

Condoleezza Rice – 2001 She is the first woman National Security Advisor. Ms. Rice previously served under George Bush, Sr. as Director and then Senior Director of Soviet and East European Affairs in the National Security Council as well as a Special Assistant to the President on National Security.

I do not claim that all women, or a large portion of them, should enter into independent business relations with the world, but I do claim that all women should cultivate and respect themselves and their ability to make money as they respect their fathers, husbands and brothers for the same ability.
- Ellen "Nell" Louise Curtis Demorset



Rebecca Lukens

Rebecca Lukens – 1825 She was first woman to run a steel mill, which is still in operation today. She had to overcome financial depressions, lawsuits, adverse court orders and ambiguous wills which left her heavily indebted to other heirs.

Augusta Lewis (Troup) – 1870 She was the first woman to be elected executive of any nationwide labor union when she was elected to the International Typographical Union.

Frances Mason – 1898 She was the first woman bank president. She became president of Limerick National Bank on Main Street, in Limerick, Maine.



Maggie Lena Walker

Maggie Lena Walker – 1903 She was the first African American woman bank president. Walker had been a member of the Grand United Order of St. Luke, an African-American fraternal and cooperative insurance society, since she was fourteen. By 1899, she had become the executive secretary-treasurer of the organization and in 1902, she began to publish a newsletter, the St. Luke Herald to increase awareness of the organization. In 1903, she founded the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank. The bank's goal was to facilitate loans to the community. By 1920, the bank had help its customers purchase more than 600 homes. In 1929 it merged with other African-American banks to become the Consolidated Bank and Trust Company with Walker as chairman of the board.



Madam C.J. Walker

Madame C. J. Walker – 1910 She became the first American self-made millionaire. During the 1890s, Walker began to suffer from a scalp ailment that caused her to lose her hair, she experimented with homemade remedies and store-bought products, including those made by Annie Malone, another black woman entrepreneur. In 1905, she moved to Denver as a sales agent for Malone where she married Charles Joseph Walker. After changing her name to “Madam” C. J. Walker, she founded her own business and began selling Madam Walker’s Wonderful Hair Grower, a scalp conditioning and healing formula. To promote her products, Madam Walker traveled for over a year throughout the South and

Southeast, selling her products door to door, demonstrating her scalp treatments in churches and lodges, and devising sales and marketing strategies.



Rose Knox

Rose Markwood Knox – 1929 She became the first woman elected to the board of directors of the American Grocery Manufacturer’s Association. In 1890, she and her husband, Charles Knox, founded Knox Gelatine Company. When he died in 1908 she took over all aspects of running the company and sold off the non-profitable enterprises of the company and concentrated on

making one quality product. Knox invested heavily in research and by 1950, 40 percent of Knox gelatine was utilized in nonfood products of an industrial or medicinal nature. Knox treated her employees exceptionally well – she offered paid vacation, sick leave, pensions and a five day week decades before they

became standard. Knox was so prosperous that it was one of the few American companies that did not lay off a single worker during the Great Depression.



Ellen Church

Ellen Church – 1930 She was the first stewardess. Church was a registered nurse from Iowa who was so captivated by flying that she began taking flying lessons. Church

approached Steve Stimpson of Boeing Air Transport for an airline job as a pilot. Although Stimpson wouldn’t hire Church as a pilot, he did see promise in another of Church’s ideas. She suggested placing nurses on planes in order to combat the public’s fear of flying. In 1930, Boeing Air Transport (BAT), the predecessor to

The flat bottom paper bag that is used today in stores around the world was invented in 1870 by Margaret Knight.

After the Civil War, she went to work for the Columbia Paper Bag Company in Springfield, Massachusetts, where she joined a largely female workforce that was paid a third less than the men who did the same job because the managers at such companies considered women inept at keeping machines in order. Initially skeptical, fellow workers watched her experiment with a machine that could cut, fold and paste bag bottoms itself, eliminating the time consuming hand work. When the machine proved successful, they gave her what they believed to be the ultimate compliment -- they said she had “a keener eye than any man in the world.”

After making thousands of trial bags on a wooden model, she commissioned a Boston machinist to produce an iron model for patenting purposes. Before she could apply for the patent, she learned that a man who had studied her model of the machine had patented a machine similar to hers. Knight filed a patent interference suit against the man, Charles F. Annan. After a legal battle, the Patent Office examiners awarded Knight the patent.

Her patent and its improvements protected she went into partnership with a Newton businessman who provided the financial assistance to have her first machines manufactured. They later established the Eastern Paper Bag Company.



At the beginning of the 20th century making coffee was a messy job. Coffee grounds were wrapped in a cloth bag and then steeped in boiling water. It was a time consuming process, and half the time the grounds leaked out of the bag, making the coffee grainy and bitter.

Melitta Benz knew there was a better way. She ripped a sheet of blotting paper out of her son's notebook, cut a circle of the porous paper, and stuck it in the bottom of a perforated brass pot. She thought that if she put the coffee grounds on top of this filter and poured the boiling water over it, she could extract the taste of the coffee without the grounds getting into the brew. She was right.

The Benzs hired a tinsmith to produce her newfangled pots for sale and in 1909 brought the drip system to the Leipzig Trade Fair. Melitta sold twelve hundred of her "coffeemakers" that summer, and the Melitta company was born.

Today the Melitta system is used in more than 150 countries worldwide, and more than two-thirds of American coffee drinkers use the drip preparation method.

United Airlines, began what other airlines thought at the time to be a bold experiment. BAT hired eight nurses to work as stewardesses on their flights for a three-month trial run. On May 15th, Ellen Church became the world's first stewardess, working the BAT route from Oakland to Chicago. The addition of stewardesses would prove to be an unquestionable success for BAT and within the next three years, most airlines followed BAT's lead. The requirements for stewardesses in the 1930s were strict. In addition to being registered nurses, the women had to be single, younger than 25 years old; weigh less than 115 pounds; and stand less than 5 feet, 4 inches tall. The responsibilities of stewardesses in the early years were far from glamorous. In addition to accommodating the regular needs of passengers, stewardesses at times needed to haul the luggage on board, screw down loose seats, fuel planes, and even help pilots push planes into hangars. For their services, the first group of BAT stewardesses earned \$125 a month.

Josephine Perfect Bay – 1956 She was the first woman to head a member firm of the New York Stock Exchange. She was elected without opposition to be the president of A.M. Kidder & Company.



Ruth Handler – 1960's She became the first woman on the Business and Industry Council.

She was the creator of the Barbie and co-founder of Mattel Toys. Inspired by her daughter's fascination with cut-out paper dolls, Ruth Handler suggested making a three-dimensional doll which little girls could use to act out their dreams. She named the doll "Barbie," which was the nickname of her real-life daughter. The success of the Barbie doll led Mattel to become a publicly-owned company in 1960.

Muriel Siebert – 1967 She was the first woman to own a seat on the New York Stock Exchange. Before considering her for membership, the Stock



Muriel Siebert

Exchange imposed a new condition: she needed a letter from a bank saying they would lend her \$300,000 of the near-record \$445,000 seat price. The banks would not commit to lend her the money until the Stock Exchange would agree to admit her. It

In 1950, a New York housewife, Marian Donovan, tired of washing, bleaching and air drying cloth diapers, cut up her shower curtain into plastic envelopes in which she slipped absorbent material. She used snap closures, rather than pins, to secure the new diaper on her children and called her new product the "Boater."

This ingenuity showed the change in the value society placed on hygiene. In Elizabethian England, babies got fresh diapers only once every four days unless you were a royal tot, who was changed once a day. Even during the frontier times of America, wet diapers were seldom washed, they were just hung up by the fireplace to dry.

Donovan called on New York department stores, when no manufacturer was willing to buy the idea. The manufacturers maintain that the "boater" was too expensive and no one would be willing to pay money for a product they were just going to throw away. The department stores agreed to stock them and the disposable diapers were an immediate success. Donovan sold her company a few years later for \$1 million.

In 1886, Josephine Garis-Cochran invented the first practical dishwasher. Ms. Cochran was a wealthy woman who had many dinner parties and although she didn't wash the dishes herself, she wanted a machine that could do the job faster without breaking many dishes. She started by measuring the dishes, then built wire compartments, each specially designed to fit either plates, cups, or saucers. The compartments were placed inside a wheel that lay flat inside a copper boiler while a motor turned the wheel and hot soapy water squirted up from the bottom of the boiler to rain down on the dishes.

Ms. Cochran was not the first person to come up with the idea of a dishwashing device, nor even the first to patent one. The first dishwasher patent on record was issued to another woman: Mary Hobson in 1870. In fact, a dozen dishwasher patents, all of them held by women, predate Josephine Cochran's 1886 model. But it was Cochran who designed the first automatic dishwashing machine that worked well enough to be mass-produced and sold.

Cochran had expected the public to welcome the new invention, which she unveiled at the 1893 World's Fair, but only hotels and large restaurants bought the dishwashers, they wouldn't become popular home appliances until the 1950's.

Cochran founded the Garis-Cochran Washing Machine Company and in 1926 she sold the company which became Kitchen-Aid, now a division of the Whirlpool Corporation.

Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, to become, in 1995, the first person of color elected to an executive office of the AFL-CIO. She is the highest ranking woman in the labor movement.

took months to overcome this double-bind and find the needed bank loans and sponsors. Muriel Siebert finally was elected to membership on December 28, 1967. On December 28, 1997 she celebrated her 30th anniversary.

Olga Madar – 1970 She was the first woman vice president of the United Auto Workers (UAW). She joined the UAW staff in 1944, when she worked at the Willow Run, Michigan bomber plant. She was elected member at-large to UAW national board in 1966.

Juanita Morris Kreps – 1972 She was the first woman director of the New York Stock Exchange, a position she held until 1977 when she became the U.S. Secretary of Commerce. She was the first woman to head the Department of Commerce. During her tenure at the Department of Commerce, she co-chaired a committee tasked with developing a unified policy to increase the privacy safeguards related to insurance policies, credit cards, and the electronic transfer of financial information.



U.S. Department of Commerce

Linda Chavez-Thompson –

1993 She was the first woman to serve on the AFL-CIO executive council. She rose from the organizing ranks of her union, the American

Bette Nesmith Graham, a secretary in Dallas in the early 1950's, sought a better way to correct typing errors rather than retyping the document. It was from this desire that Liquid Paper, originally called "mistake out" was invented. Graham used her own kitchen blender to mix up her first batch of liquid paper.

Nesmith used her knowledge of art to produce a mixture of tempura paint dyed to match the color of the stationary. For five years she was admired for her accuracy in typing, while her corrections went unnoticed. Eventually, the other secretaries found out and asked for some of the correcting fluid.

1956, Graham started the Mistake Out Company (later renamed Liquid Paper) from her North Dallas home. Her kitchen was her laboratory where she mixed up an improved product. Her son, Micheal Nesmith (of Monkees fame) and his friends filled the bottles for her customers.

By 1967, Liquid Paper had grown into a million dollar business. Ms. Graham died in 1980, six months after selling her corporation for \$47.5 million.

Prejudices, it is well known, are most difficult to eradicate from the heart whose soil has never been loosened or fertilized by education; they grow there, firm as weeds among rocks.

- Charlotte Bronte

Judith Sargent Murray -- 1778 She published an article titled "Desultory Thoughts upon the Utility of Encouraging a Degree of Self-Complacency, Especially in Female Bosoms." This article was the first to address the subject of education for girls. Ms. Murray was married for the first time at 18 but she felt that young women needed more of a sense of themselves so that they wouldn't rush into marriage just to establish their status. Instead of directing women solely to marriage, Ms. Murray felt that they should



Prudence Crandall

become accustomed "to habits of industry and order. They should be taught with precision the art economical; they should be enabled to procure for themselves the necessities of life; independence should be placed within their grasp." Judith Murray, who was widowed when her first husband died in 1786, argued that women should be "qualified to administer by their own efforts to their own wants."

Emma Hart Willard – 1814 She opened the first school for women in the United States. She opened the Middleburg Female Seminary in her home at a time when society and custom prevented women from learning anything but the most elemental reading and writing.

Prudence Crandall – 1833 She founded the first institution dedicated solely to the education of African American women, the Canterbury Female School in Canterbury, CT. She was forced to close the school in 1834 after standing trial twice for educating out-of-state students which was illegal in the State of Connecticut and the school was set on fire. When she was 84 years old the Connecticut legislature formally apologized for the "cruel outrages" she and her students suffered.

Mount Holyoke Seminary -- 1838 It was the first women's college to have a graduation. The Seminary was founded in 1837 by Mary Lyon. The country was in an economic depression when she began fundraising to establish the college but she received contributions ranging from six cents to \$1,000. Mount Holyoke is still operating today.



Georgia Female College – 1840 It was the first college to award full bachelor's degree to women. Founded in 1836 and located in Macon, Georgia, it was the first college in the country to offer young women the same curriculum as other institutions offered to men. The name was changed to Wesleyan Female College in 1843, and in 1919, it became a fully accredited four year liberal arts college. Although the school, which is still open today, dropped "female" it from its name, has remained all female.

Antioch College – 1852 It was the first nonsectarian college to grant women absolutely equal rights with men. The school located in Yellow Springs, Ohio, was chartered in 1852 and graduated three women in its first class of 1857.



Antioch College

St. Louis Law School – 1869 It was the first law school to admit women. In 1871, Phoebe W. Couzins was the first female student to graduate.

Amy Bradley – 1869 She was the first woman to supervise a public school system. Bradley was self educated and began teaching at the age of 15. She was named principal of a grammar school in Gardiner, Maine when only 21. After the Civil War, she moved to Wilmington, North Carolina and organized a school for poor white children. Other schools were opened and in 1869 she was named superintendent of the school system.



Susan Blow

Ellen Richard – 1873 She was the first woman to receive a degree in chemistry from MIT and became the first woman professional chemist in the nation. The first woman to study at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology she developed MIT's Women's Laboratory. Her studies of air, water and food led to the creation of national public health standards and the creation of sanitary engineering and nutrition. Richards help found the American Home Economics Association and served as the group's first president

Susan E. Blow – 1873 She was the first woman to open and teach public kindergarten in the U.S. in St. Louis Missouri. She started the first kindergarten in her home but it soon moved to a larger building. In 1874, she opened the first training school for kindergarten teachers and by 1880 all of the schools in St. Louis included kindergarten. The adoption of kindergarten by the St. Louis public schools began the spread of kindergartens through the United States. Blow received no compensation for her work.

Florence Bascom – 1893 She was the first woman to actually receive a Ph.D. from John Hopkins, one other woman had earned a Ph.D. at the school but the trustees refused to grant her the degree. In 1894, she became the first woman elected to membership in the Geoplogical Society of America. In 1896, she became the first woman credentialed by the U.S. Geological Survey. In 1901, she was the first woman to present a paper before the American Geological Society. In 1930, she became the first woman officer of the American Geological Society when she was elected Vice President. Bascom was rated a four star geologist in 1906 by the American Men of Science in their first issue, a rating which meant her colleagues regarded her as among the country's hundred leading geologists.

Alice McLellan Birney – 1897 She was the founder and first president of the National Congress of Mothers which became the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, the local units are known as the Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Birney presented her idea for the forerunner of the PTA at an adult education center in Chautauqua, NY in 1895. In 1897, she met Phoebe Apperson Hearst who helped her transform her plans into reality.



Alice McLellan Birney

Sophonisba Preston Breckinridge – 1901 She was the first woman to earn a Ph.D. in political science. She received her degree from the University of Chicago and focused much of her subsequent work on poor women and children. She wrote several articles which advanced her belief that the government needed to take a bigger role in helping the poor.



Mary McLeod Bethune – 1904 She was the first woman to establish a secondary school, the Daytona Normal and Industrial Institute for Negro Girls, that became a four year accredited college. The school opened with five girls although it later accepted boys as well. Tuition was only fifty cents a week although no student was refused if their parents could

not afford to pay. The school merged with another institution and became Bethune-Cookman College which still operates today. Bethune also opened a high school and hospital for African-Americans.

Ethel Andrus – 1947 She was the founder and first president of the National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA). The Association sponsored the first U.S. health plan for people over 65. In 1958, she founded and served as the first president of the American Association for Retired Persons (AARP). AARP extended the insurance coverage started by NRTA to all retired person over the age of 55.



Ethel Andrus

Hanna Holborn Gray – 1974 She was the first female Provost at Yale University. In 1977 she became the first woman to be appointed Acting President at Yale. Before the Yale Search Committee decided on their choice for a new president Gray was invited by the University of Chicago to become their president in 1978, making her the first woman president of a major U.S. university.

I do not pray for success. I ask for faithfulness.

-- Mother Teresa

Antoinette Blackwell – 1853 She was the first woman to be a minister. She enrolled at Oberlin College in 1846 where she finished a non-degree course in literature in 1847. She then announced her intentions to study theology. Although the school did not think it appropriate for a woman to study theology, the school charter decreed that no student could be excluded on the basis of sex. She graduated in 1850 but the Oberlin faculty refused to award her a college degree in theology nor did she receive a license to preach. Blackwell traveled for two years giving speeches supporting the abolition of slavery, temperance, and preaching when she had an opportunity. Although still not sanctioned by the Congregationalist denomination, on September 15, 1853 she became the minister of the South Butler, New York Congregational Church.

Olympia Brown – 1863 She became the first woman ordained by a major religious denomination. Brown graduated with a theological degree from St. Lawrence University in 1863. She was ordained a Universalist minister, becoming the first woman to have full ministerial standing recognized by a religious denomination.

Mary Baker Eddy – 1879 She was the first woman to found a major religious movement. Eddy, the founder of the Christian Science movement, spent most of her childhood and adult life in ill health. In 1866, she was healed, after a serious fall left her paralyzed, as she read the account of Jesus' healings in the New Testament. It was from this experience that she discovered what she



Antoinette Blackwell



Mary Baker Eddy

came to understand as the Science of Christianity. In 1875, she wrote and published *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, which has since been published in 17 languages and Braille, and is available in audio and computer formats. She established the Church of Christ Scientist in 1879 and in 1908 she founded the *Christian Science Monitor* which remains the official paper of the Church.

Frances Xavier Cabrini (nee Maria Francesca Cabrini) – 1946 She was the first American canonized a saint by the Roman Catholic Church. In 1880, Cabrini started the congregation now known as Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. She moved from Rome, Italy to New York City in 1889 where she began to raise money to establish an orphanage. In 1892, she began a small hospital that became Columbus Hospital and later was renamed Cabrini Health Care Center. The Cabrini Health Care Center which still operates today was started with only \$250.00. She was beatified by Pope Pius XI in 1938 and canonized by Pope Pius XII in 1946.



Frances Xavier Cabrini

Elizabeth Seton -- 1963 She was the first American-born woman to be beatified and later canonized a saint by the Roman Catholic Church. Elizabeth Seton was born and raised in the Episcopal Church but during a stay in Italy where her husband died she was introduced to the Catholic faith by friends of her husband's family. She did not convert to Catholicism until 1805 after her return to New York. Seton was promptly disinherited by her family and moved with her five children to Baltimore where she began a school for Catholic girls. In 1809, she took vows for a new order, the Sisters of Charity which was the first American Catholic sisterhood. Seton's order quickly grew under her leadership and the teaching activities of the Sisters is usually considered the beginning of the parochial school system in the United States.

Leontine Kelly -- 1984 She became the first African-American woman to be elected bishop in the Methodist Church. Kelly received her "call" to the ministry after the death of her husband, a Methodist minister, in 1969. She received her degree in divinity from the Wesley Theological Seminary and Union Theological Seminary. She became an ordained minister and pastored two churches, held several important positions in the United Methodist Church, and became known as an excellent administrator and dynamic preacher. She was appointed Assistant General Secretary in the area of Evangelism for the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship in Nashville, Tennessee in 1983. After the Western Jurisdictional Conference of the United Methodist Church elected her bishop, she served as chief administrative officer and spiritual leader for more than 100,000 Methodists in California and Nevada until her retirement in 1988.



Leontine Kelly

I swear to fulfill, to the best of my ability and judgment, this covenant:

I will respect the hard-won scientific gains of those physicians in whose steps I walk, and gladly share such knowledge as is mine with those who are to follow.

I will apply, for the benefit of the sick, all measures which are required, avoiding those twin traps of overtreatment and therapeutic nihilism.

I will remember that there is art to medicine as well as science, and that warmth, sympathy, and understanding may outweigh the surgeon's knife or the chemist's drug.

excerpt from the Hippocratic Oath



Depiction of a cesarean birth during Roman times

Elizabeth Bennett – 1794 She was the first woman to have a successful caesarean section birth. Her husband, Dr. Jesse Bennett, performed the procedure using laudanum, an opium-based painkiller, as an anesthetic. Another local doctor who he asked for assistance declined, citing excessive risk. In his

place, he enlisted the help of two field hands to hold the mother on a wooden table. Whereas this operation was the first of its kind in the U.S., the history of the Cesarean operation has been traced as far back as ancient Chinese etchings that depict the procedure on apparently living women. Roman law under Julius Caesar

decreed that all women who were dead or dying must be cut open to save the child.



Ms. Crawford before removal of tumor

Jane Todd Crawford – 1809 she was the first woman to have an ovariectomy, a procedure that involves a surgical incision into an ovary to remove a tumor. Ms. Crawford had assumed she was pregnant, with twins, because of the size of her abdomen. However, upon examination Dr. McDowell realized she was not pregnant but had an ovarian tumor. Before Dr. Ephraim McDowell would perform the surgery he told her

he would operate only "if she thought herself prepared to die" since the medical wisdom of the day was that opening the abdominal cavity could only mean certain death since infection would be swift and unavoidable. On Christmas Day, Dr. McDowell

In 1901, Dr. Baker became a medical inspector for New York City. Her territory was Hell's Kitchen, one of the worst ghetto areas in the country.

Baker learned while working in Hell's Kitchen that the restrictive infant wear of the time had strangled many babies. In an effort to remedy this problem she designed a new system of baby clothes and consequently invented the "obvious, but previously unthought-of, system of making baby clothes all open down the front."

She then set out to end the needless blinding of infants which was caused by the improper administration of eyedrops that all babies received to prevent gonorrheal infection. The solution used was usually stored in bottles where it could easily be contaminated. Dr. Baker invented a foolproof, sanitary packing solution which utilized two beeswax capsules, each containing enough solution for one eye. This method was adopted worldwide.

Her programs had a dramatic effect on the infant mortality rate in the slum areas of New York City where the rate dropped from 1500 deaths per week to just 300. Dr. Baker was so determined that child hygiene would become a national priority that she agreed to retire in 1923 only after all forty-eight states initiated similar programs. She also oversaw the establishment of the Federal Children's Bureau and Public Health Service, the forerunner of today's Department of Health and Human Services.

In 1891, Anna Wessel Williams began on a path that would have a lasting impact on our lives today. She obtained her medical degree from Women's Medical College of New York and took a post at the newly created diagnostic lab of the city's health department. The lab's first priority was to stop a diphtheria epidemic that was raging throughout the city at the time. The antitoxin that had been developed was too weak to be effective, Dr. Williams was able to isolate an unusually strong and prolific strain, which bears her name and remains in production today. Her discovery helped to end the epidemic and has made diphtheria a rare disease in most of the world.

Dr. Williams then turned her research to rabies. By 1896, the Pasteur Institute in Paris had isolated the first effective rabies antitoxin and Dr. Williams was the first American physician to travel to Europe to obtain a culture of the virus. She obtained enough of the vaccine to begin large scale production in the U.S. But even with the vaccine many victims still died due to the length of time to diagnosis if the animal itself was rabid.

Concurrently with Italian physician Adelchi Negri, Dr. Williams identified the distinctive brain cell peculiar to an animal with rabies. She then invented a method to detect the "Negri bodies," a method which is still used today.



Lucy Hobbs

broke out. In 1865, she was elected to membership in the Iowa State Dental Society. The Iowa Society supported her reapplication to the Ohio College of Dental Surgery where she graduated in 1866 with the highest final exam grades in her class.

Ann Preston — 1867 She was the first woman to become dean of any medical school. A graduate of the first class of the Female Medical College, Preston remained with the College as a faculty member. A determined Quaker with a background in the abolition movement, she also founded Woman's Hospital of Philadelphia and its nursing school, one of the nation's earliest.

removed a 22½ pound tumor from Ms. Crawford abdomen. The surgery was performed without any anesthesia and after a twenty-five day recuperation Ms. Crawford returned home and lived another 32 years.

Elizabeth Blackwell -- 1849 she was the first woman to receive a medical degree. After graduation from Geneva Medical College in New York, Blackwell traveled to France to pursue further study but had to abandon her plans to become a surgeon after a serious infection left her blind in one eye. She returned to New York and in 1853 opened a dispensary in the slums. In 1857, Blackwell along with her sister, Emily and Dr. Marie Zakrzewska incorporated the dispensary as the New York Infirmary for Women and Children. After the Civil War, the Blackwells opened the Women's Medical College at the infirmary.



Elizabeth Blackwell

Lucy Hobbs (Taylor) 1866 She was the first woman to graduate from dental school. In 1859, she applied to the Eclectic Medical College but they refused to admit her and advised her to study dentistry. She then applied to Ohio College of Dental Surgery and was again denied. A graduate student however accepted her as an apprentice. She opened an office in Chicago and moved to Iowa when the Civil War

In the 1930's when Hattie Elizabeth Alexander first began researching influenza meningitis the disease was 100 percent fatal in infants, and the treatment for adults was nearly useless. Working with immunochemist Michael Heidelberger, she worked for several years without success to find a cure for the disease.

Dr. Alexander used as her basis for developing an antiserum, an anti-pneumonia serum that had been developed at New York's Rockefeller Institute. In 1939, she reported the first complete cure in infants, and her antiserum subsequently reduced the mortality rate to 20 percent. When discovery of antibiotics made her antiserum obsolete, she began looking at the related diseases that often followed meningital infection. Dr. Alexander was the first to show the connection between H. *influenzae*, the organism that causes meningitis and croup.

But despite antibiotics, there were still babies who died from the infection, and she discovered that some bacteria were resistant to antibiotic treatment. That discovery led her research into microbiological genetics, a subject scientists knew little about at the time. She showed that the disease-producing traits of H. *influenzae* were genetically controlled.



Linda Richards

Linda Richards – 1872 She was the first trained nurse in the U.S. She trained at the New England Hospital for Women and Children. Her diploma is currently housed in the Archives of the Smithsonian Institution.

Emeline Horton Cleveland – 1875 She was the first woman to perform surgery. In 1875, in what was apparently the earliest recorded instance of major surgery performed by a woman, she performed the first of several ovariectomies. In 1850, She founded the Female Medical College of Pennsylvania, this was the first school anywhere in the world established to offer a medical course and the M.D. to women, who had been almost entirely excluded from formal medical education at that time. The school became known as Medical College of Pennsylvania (MCP) in 1970 after its Board elected to admit men students in 1969; by then, WMC had outlasted other women's medical college by fifty years.



Mary Eliza Mahoney

Mary Eliza Mahoney – 1879 She was the first trained African-American nurse. She attended the nursing school at the New England Hospital for Women and Children, the same hospital where she was born.

In 1917, Alice Evans as one of the first women scientists permanently appointed to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Bureau of Animal Husbandry, initiated a study of bacterial contamination of milk. In 1917, she revealed her findings which included the identification of the organism that caused undulant fever, a disease that can last for years. Undulant fever is caused by infection with a bacteria of one of the *Brucella* species, which is present in unpasteurized milk and dairy products.

Evans discovery led to milk pasteurization laws which were enacted in the 1930's despite fierce opposition. Although Evans was infected with undulant fever in 1922, she worked throughout her life as a widely-respected scientist.

After her retirement in 1945, she lectured frequently on female career development, emphasizing scientific careers.

Mary Gartside -- 1885 She was the first American to undergo a successful appendectomy. The surgery was performed by Dr. William Grant when Ms. Gartside was 22 years old.

Mary Whiton Calkins – 1905 She was the first woman elected president of the American Psychological Association. In 1918, she was the first women elected president of the American Philosophical Association. In 1901, she published an Introduction to Psychology which was then used as a text in colleges nationwide.

Alice Gertrude Bryant & Florence West Duckering — 1914 They were the first two women admitted to the American College of Surgeons. Bryant was a specialist in Ear, Nose & Throat and invented the tonsil separator, tongue depressor, and bone-gripping forceps used to stabilize broken bones while screws or plates were inserted.

Janet Graeme Travell – 1961 She was the first woman personal physician to a president of the United States when President John F. Kennedy

In 1948, Elizabeth Hazen and Rachel Brown discovered the antifungal Nystatin, the first safe fungicide. Hazen and Brown began their collaboration in 1948 as employees of the New York State Department of Health, it only took them a year to find and separate the antifungal substance in a soil sample that Hazen had collected from a friend's farm in Virginia.

Although they were courted by every major pharmaceutical house in the country with lucrative offers, the doctors decided to patent the drug through a non-profit research corporation. The fund has generated over \$13 million in research grants. The doctors refused to take any of the royalty and lived off of their salaries as civil servants until their deaths.

The drug has been used to cure many disfiguring and disabling fungal infections as well as to balance the effect of many anti-bacterial drugs. In addition, the drug has been used to treat such problems as Dutch Elm's disease and to restore water-damaged artwork from the effects of mold.



Mary Whiton Calkins

courtesy of Oklahoma State University
Department of Psychology



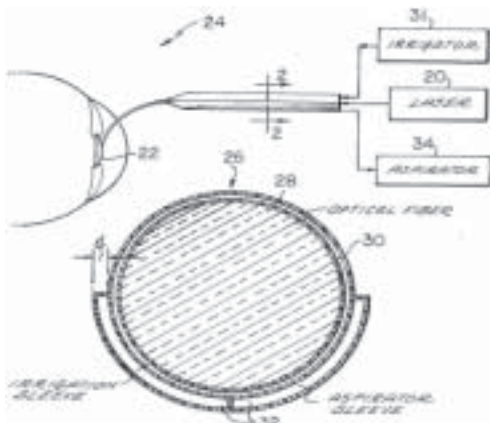
Gertrude B. Elion

appointed her to the post on January 25, 1961. Dr. Travell had first treated the President in 1955 after he underwent spinal surgery. Dr. Travell resigned as White House physician in 1965.

Gertrude B. Elion – 1988 She was the first woman to win the Nobel Prize for physiology or medicine. In 1991, she was the first woman inducted into National Inventors Hall of Fame. Elion vowed as a teenager to fight cancer after she watched her beloved grandfather die of the

disease. When she graduated in 1937 she encountered obstacles to fulfilling her goal. Laboratories refused to hire her because she was a woman, one interviewer told her he “wouldn’t hire her because she was pretty; she would distract the men from their work.” That did not stop her. After working as a secretary for awhile, she met a chemist who said she could work in his lab as long as she didn’t expect to get paid. Elion jumped at the chance. During World War II, Elion went to work for Burroughs-

Wellcome, where she was finally able to focus her work on her vow to fight cancer. Her first breakthrough was Purinethol, the first drug to treat leukemia. In 1957, she synthesized Imuram, a drug that blocks rejection of foreign tissue. The advent of this drug enabled successful organ transplants. Her team also developed drugs to treat gout and herpes.



Drawing of Dr. Bath's laser device for removing cataracts

Patricia Bath -- 1988 She was the first African-American woman to receive a patent for a medical invention. Dr. Bath began her work with YAG and excimer lasers in the 1980's. In order to not be hindered by FDA red tape, Dr. Bath

moved much of her research to France. In 1988 she was awarded the first of four patents for ophthalmic devices used in laser cataract surgery.

In 1944, Dr. Helen Taussig together with heart surgeon Dr. Blalock, performed the first Blalock-Taussig operation. The Blalock-Taussig operation was born from Dr. Taussig's work with cyanotic infants, or “blue babies”, while she was chief of the heart clinic at Johns Hopkins.

The Blalock-Taussig procedure is performed when there is a heart defect which causes too little blood flow to the brain. The first operation was performed on a one year old who weighed just 10 pounds. The operation soon was widely performed.

Dr. Taussig's medical breakthrough gave many infants the chance for a normal life.

Ruth Handler is most famous for the advent of the Barbie Doll but she was also the inventor of a prosthesis that helps many women worldwide.

As cofounder of Mattel Toy Corp., Handler created Barbie, the world's most famous doll and an American icon. In 1970, Handler lost a breast to cancer and she had a difficult time finding a suitable prosthesis. So she had an artificial breast designed and custom-made for her.

Handler went on to form Ruthon Corporation with the designer and developed the “Nearly Me” prosthesis, a more realistic prosthesis than ones available to women at that time.

On December 14, 1995, Dr. Suzanne Ildstad, Jeff Getty, and a baboon made medical history. Dr. Ildstad performed the first bone marrow transplant with an unmatched donor. Dr. Ildstad had discovered the “facilitator cell” which made the thirty minute operation possible.

The facilitator cell made it possible to transplant bone marrow from a nonmatching donor, a sibling, a parent, a neighbor, or even the baboon. Dr. Ildstad hopes that this research will help not only patients who need bone marrow transplants but also the tens of thousands of people who die each year waiting for an organ transplant because a matching donor cannot be found.

Even when laws have been written down, they ought not always remain unaltered.

-Aristotle



Myra Bradwell

Myra Bradwell -- 1869 She was the first female attorney. Bradwell began her legal career in 1868 with the Chicago Legal News. As publisher and editor, Bradwell used the Chicago Legal News to advocate for women's rights, speaking out for women's suffrage. In 1869, she created Chicago's first women's suffrage convention and passed the Bar exam. She appealed to the Illinois Supreme Court, but she was still denied admission because of her gender. Bradwell was admitted to the United States Supreme Court and the Illinois Supreme Court in 1892, retroactive to her initial application in 1869.

Arabella (Belle Aurelia) Mansfield – 1869 She was the first woman to be admitted to the bar. She applied for admission and passed the exam with high honors. At the time Iowa law stated admission to bar was open to

“any white male person.” An Iowa Court held that “the affirmative declaration that male persons may be admitted is not an implied denial to the right of females.”

Charlotte Ray – 1872 She was the first African-America woman lawyer in the United States and the first woman admitted to the District of Columbia Bar. She was unable to obtain enough legal business to maintain her practice due to racial prejudices and returned to New York City where she taught in public school.



Belva Lockwood

Belva Lockwood – 1879 She was the first woman to practice law before the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1876 when a federal judge refused to hear her in court she turned to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court however, upheld the lower courts decision. She then lobbied Congress and in 1879 Congress passed a bill enabling female attorneys to practice before the Supreme Court. She was the first woman to take advantage of the new law and argue a case before the highest court in the land.

Florence Ellinwood Allen – 1934 She was the first woman appointed to U.S. Court of Appeals. She was also the first woman to hold office as Assistant County Prosecutor, first woman judge of a Court of Common Pleas

by election, and the first woman judge of the highest court of a state by election. The Attorney General said, in commenting on her appointment “Florence Allen was not appointed because she was a woman. All we did was to see that she was not rejected because she was a woman.”

Burnita S. Matthews – 1949 She was the first woman to serve as federal district judge. Appointed by Harry S. Truman to federal district court for the District of Columbia. Upon her appointment, Judge T. Alan Goldsborough said, “Mrs. Matthews would be a good judge, but there is just one thing wrong with her: she's a woman.” Although Judge Goldsborough later told Judge Matthews that while he thought it was a mistake to appoint a woman, he no longer resented the fact that she was a judge.



Burnita S. Matthews



Susie M. Sharp

Sarah Tilghman Hughes – 1963 She was the first woman federal judge to swear in a U.S. President. She was appointed as a federal judge by President Kennedy in 1961. After his assassination in 1963 she swore in President Lyndon B. Johnson on November 22, 1963.

Susie M. Sharp – 1975 She was the first woman elected chief justice of a state supreme court in a popular election. She was elected to the North Carolina Supreme Court and assumed office on January 2, 1975.

Tracey Thurman – 1985 She was the first woman to win a civil suit as a battered wife. She had filed numerous complaints with police that were reportedly ignored. On June 10, 1983, a male police officer was on the scene when her ex-husband stabbed her 13 times and repeatedly kicked her in the head. The police officer did nothing to stop the assault. Scarred and partially paralyzed, she filed a civil suit. It was the first time a federal judge allowed a citizen to file a domestic violence suit against a police department. She charged the Tarrington Police Department with violating her civil rights. In June 1985, she was awarded \$2.3 million in damages and her 3-year old son, who had witnessed the attack, was awarded \$300,000.

Honor to the soldier, and sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause, Honor also the citizen who cares for his brother in the field, and serves, as best he can, the same cause -- honor to him, only less than to him, who braves for the common good, the storm of heaven and the storms of battle.

-- Abraham Lincoln

Margaret Cochran Corbin – 1779 She was the first woman to earn a disabled soldiers pension. Corbin fought alongside her husband in the Revolutionary War. She assisted him as a gunner at Fort Washington, NY when the British and Hessian troops attacked. When her husband was killed, she took over the loading and firing of the cannon. She was granted a pension by the Continental Congress due to her distinguishing bravery.

Lucy Brewer (aka George Baker) – 1812 She was the first woman marine. She concealed her sex when she enlisted in marines and served aboard the U.S.S. Constitution. The Historical Division of the U.S. Marine Corps tells the story this way: "No compilation of legends would be complete without mention of Lucy Brewer. A farm girl from Massachusetts, Lucy Brewer was the legendary first woman Marine. The War of 1812 was raging when Lucy arrived at Boston. Friendless in the strange city, she met a woman who seemed eager to take a stranger into her home. Lucy was surprised that one woman could have so many daughters, but she soon discovered that the home was not just a house. Unsited to a life of sin, Lucy fled her benefactress, donned men's clothing, and found refuge in the Marine Corps. No one discovered she was a woman, and as a member of the "Constitution's" Marine guard, she saw action in some of the bloodiest sea fights of the war. Her exploits came to light when she published an autobiographical account of her experiences. She described her heroism in the major battles of the "Constitution" with such details as manning the fighting tops as a marksman, taking toll of the British with musket fire. True or not, the story of Lucy Brewer makes a wonderful addition to the colorful legends about the Marine Corps." It would be over one hundred years before the Marine Corps seriously began to recruit women.





Rendition of "Molly Pitcher" during Battle of Monmouth

Mary McCauley – 1822 She was the first woman to receive a military pension from a state government. McCauley, better known as "Molly Pitcher," brought soldiers pitchers of cool spring water as well as tended the wounded during the battle of Monmouth on June 28, 1778. When her husband, William Hays was wounded she took up his position manning the artillery guns. She was issued a warrant as a non-commissioned officer by George Washington for her heroic actions. The Legislature of Pennsylvania voted in 1882 to acknowledge her wartime service by granting her an immediate payment of \$40 plus an annual pension of \$40 for the rest of her life.

Sally Tompkins – 1861 first woman to be commissioned an officer in the Confederate Army. She was commissioned as a captain by President Jefferson Davis in order for her private hospital to remain open.

Dr. Mary Walker – 1865 She was the first woman to receive the Medal of Honor. She received the medal for her work as a Union Army nurse and surgeon during the Civil War. The Medal was rescinded in 1917, although she refused to return it and continued to wear it until her death in 1919. In 1977, the Army reinstated the Medal.



Dr. McGee, an acting assistant surgeon in the U.S. Army and founder of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps

Anita Newcomb McGee – 1898 She was the first woman appointed Assistant Surgeon General in the U.S. Army. She served in this capacity during the Spanish American War. After the end of the war, she pursued the establishment of a permanent nurse corps. She wrote the section of the Army Reorganization Act legislation pertaining to nursing and is now known as the founder of the Army Nurse Corps.

(Georgia) Tiny Broadwick – 1913 She was the first woman to free-fall parachute from an airplane. The jump which took place at Griffith Field in Los Angeles was part of a U.S. Army test of an eleven foot parachute called a "life board."

In 1848, Coston perfected then patented her deceased husband's idea for pyrotechnic flares which the U.S. Navy using for ship to ship and ship to shore communication at night.

Her husband had worked on this invention while he was stationed at the Washington Navy Yard and had given a test set of the signals to a naval officer for later testing. Coston was able to contact the officer after much difficulty and get the signal flares returned. However, he returned the damaged box of signals without any documentation as to the "written recipes for their manufacture." Coston then set out to determine the exact composition of the flares and perfect their design. She was able to use her contacts forged during her husband military career to get the new flares tested.

In February 1859, C. S. McCauley, Captain and Senior Officer of the United States Navy recommended the flares to the Secretary of the Navy, Isaac Toucey. She sold her system to the Navy for \$5,000 and later sold the patent rights to the Navy for \$20,000. The system was also adopted by the governments of France, Italy, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Haiti.

The Coston Supply Company established by Ms. Coston remained in business until 1985 and her system of bright, long-lasting signal flares revolutionized naval communications and continues to be used today.



(Georgia) Tiny Broadwick

Helen Balliser and Ana Tjohnlands - 1914 They were the first women to serve as ambulance doctors. They served in the European theater during World War I.



Oveta Culp Hobby

Opha M. Johnson – 1918 She was the first woman member of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. On August 12, 1918, the Secretary of the Navy authorized the commandant of the Marine Corps to enroll women for clerical duty. Johnson enlisted the next day.

Oveta Culp Hobby – 1942 She was the first woman to win the Army's Distinguished Service Medal for organizing and commanding the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAC). By the end of the war, WACs served in hundreds of military occupational specialties. She received no rank until 1943 even though she recruited and trained over 100,000 women in 3 years who were assigned to posts throughout the world. In 1943, she was awarded the rank of Colonel. In 1953, She became the first secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Mary Babnick Brown – 1942 She was the first woman to have her hair used in a bombsight. She donated some of her hair to the war effort in response to an advertisement for experimental use as the crosshairs in a new aiming device, the Norden bombsight. Human hair was sought because of its adaptability to extremes in temperature, humidity and altitude. This device was a carefully guarded military secret – crews were instructed to denote explosives attached to the bombsights if their plane was at risk of falling into enemy hands. Although this story has survived as fact, its veracity has come into question in recent history.



Annie G. Fox

Annie G. Fox – 1942 She was the first woman to receive the Purple Heart. She was the head of Hickam Field, Hawaii at time of the attack on Pearl Harbor. She received the medal for being wounded during the attack.

Elsie S. Lott – 1943 She was the first woman to receive U.S. Air Medal. She served as a second lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corps and received the medal for

meritorious achievement as an air evac nurse.

Edith Greenwood – 1943 She was the first woman to receive the Soldier's Medal. She was cited for heroism in saving the lives of patients in Yuma, Arizona hospital fire. She and a ward attendant, Pvt. James Ford were able to evacuate all patients.

Cordelia E. Book – 1944 She was the first woman to receive the Bronze Star. She was also the first woman to receive two decorations in World War II. She was awarded the Bronze Star

Although Hedy Lamarr is probably better known as an actress she also made a very important contribution to military communications. Lamarr shares a 1942 patent, under her legal name Hedy Kiesler Markey, for a "secret communication system." The communications system was intended for use as a radio guidance device for U.S. Navy torpedoes. Lamarr, along with George Antheil, came up with the idea of "frequency hopping" to quickly shift the radio signals of control devices, making them invulnerable to radio interference or jamming.

The U.S. military let the patent languish in their archives because they could not implement such a system using the technology of the time. It is only now, in the age of the cell phone, that Antheil's and Lamarr's system has come into its own.

Today's technical term is "spread spectrum," but the basic idea is the same. The Federal Communications Commission allotted a special section of the radio spectrum for an experiment using the spread spectrum to make wireless phone calls more secure.

First used secretly by the U.S. military in the 1960s, it came into commercial use in the 1990s. A lot of money has been spent on the process in the last decade, which allows more cell-phone users to use the existing frequency spectrum.



for meritorious service in January 1944 for continuing to nurse wounded soldiers after her field hospital in Italy was bombed in November 1943. She received Purple Heart after being wounded by artillery fire in January 1944.



**Mary Agnes
Hallaren**

Mary Shotwell Ingraham – 1946 She was the first woman to receive the U.S. Medal for Merit. She was awarded the medal by Harry S. Truman for her service to the country. In 1941, she founded the United Service Organization (USO), which provides social, recreational and welfare facilities for the armed services.

Mary Agnes Hallaren – 1948 She was the first nonmedical woman to be a regular army officer. Hallaren was a colonel in the Women's Army Corps (WAC). When she was sworn in as Director of WAC on December 3, 1948 she became first woman officer since WAC had been incorporated into the regular army as a full fledge corps on June 12, 1948.

Jeanne M. Holm — 1971 She was the first woman general officer in the U.S. Air Force. She had enlisted in the Women's Army Corps in 1942, and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1943. She retired at the end of World War II but was recalled in 1948 when she transferred to Air Force. In 1971, she was appointed Brigadier General before becoming Major General, the highest rank held by a woman in the armed forces.



Jeanne M. Holm

The Atomic Bomb was made possible by the work of several women.

Dr. Maria Goeppert-Mayer was part of the team that first isolated fissionable uranium-235. Dr. Goeppert-Mayer was also present when the first bomb was constructed.

Dr. Leona Libby was a member of the Manhattan Project, she was the only woman officially assigned to the project. Dr. Libby not only help design and build the first nuclear reactor, she also personally directed the construction of the first thermal column.

M. Hildred Blewett designed the particle accelerator which enable scientists to free even more energy from the nucleus of the atom.

Dr. Marguerite Chang designed the trigger mechanism for underground nuclear testing. As a research scientist for the U.S. Navy, most of Dr. Chang's achievements are classified but it is known that her work has help to advance the study of missile propellants and explosives.

Ethel Ann Hoefly – 1972 She was the first Air Force nurse to achieve the rank of Brigadier General. She served with the U.S. Army Nurse Corps during World War II then transferred to the U.S. Air Force Nurse Corps when it formed in 1949. She was named chief of U.S. Air Force Nurse Corps in 1968.

Judy Neuffer — 1973 She was the first woman assigned to U.S. Navy pilot training. On September 1, 1974, She became the first pilot in U.S. history to fly into the eye of a hurricane. Her assignment was to measure wind speeds (150 mph) and plot the exact location of eye.

Barbara Allen Rainy – 1974 She was the first woman U.S. Navy Pilot. She was also the first to receive the Navy's Wings of Gold, an insignia of distinction

Beverly Gwinn Kelley – 1979 She was the first woman to command a U.S. Coast Guard vessel at sea. In 1977, she and Debra Lee Wilson became the first women to serve alongside men on armed vessels.

Wilma Vaught – 1980 She became the Air Force's first female Brigadier General. In 1985, She was the first woman to command a unit receiving the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the Nation's highest peacetime unit award. She was one of the most decorated military women in US. History.



Wilma Vaught



Roberta Hazard

Roberta Hazard – 1985 She was the first woman to command the largest U.S. Naval Training facility. She commanded the Naval Training Center in Great Lakes, Illinois. She has been a member of the United States Navy since 1960.

Margaret A. Brewer – 1978 She was the first woman to achieve the rank of United States Marine Corps Brigadier General. The Marine Corps was the last of the armed services to promote a woman to the rank of general.

Elizabeth Dole – 1983 She became the first female head of an armed services when she became the first woman appointed as Secretary of Transportation. The

appointment automatically made her Director of the U.S. Coast Guard



Elizabeth Dole

Juanita Ashcraft – 1976 She was the first woman to be named Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Air Force. The post of Assistant Secretary for Manpower and Reserve Affairs is the highest civilian appointment ever given to a woman in the U.S. Air Force.

Shannon Faulkner – 1994 She was the first woman to attend the all-male Citadel, a military training institute. In 1993, Faulkner applied to the Citadel and was admitted based on her qualifications. Her application did not indicate her gender, when the school discovered that she was a woman, they withdrew her acceptance. In 1994, a federal judge ordered the Citadel to admit Faulkner to day classes, ruling that the school's policy banning women was unconstitutional. In July 1994, a U.S. District Court ruled that Faulkner must also be admitted to the Corps of Cadets, the regiment that all the undergraduate men belong to. Faulkner and her family were subjected to harassment during the court battle and once Faulkner began classes at the Citadel she continued to be harassed by the other cadets. Within a week the first woman to attend the Citadel became the first woman to drop out. Since 1994, 43 women have enrolled at the Citadel and only one has graduated.



Shannon Faulkner

I never notice what has been done. I only see what remains to be done.

-Marie Curie

Sybilla Master – 1715 She was the first woman inventor whose invention was patented. The patent office in London England granted the patent to Thomas Masters for his wife's invention of a device for cleaning and curing Indian corn on Nov. 25, 1715. The patent was also recorded and published in Pennsylvania.

Maria Mitchell – 1830 She was the first female astronomer in America. On a clear autumn night in 1847 Maria stood on the roof of her parent's house, focusing her telescope on a faraway star. Suddenly she realized that the faint, blurry light wasn't a star at all, but a comet. The discovery of a comet wasn't a rare event in the nineteenth century, but women astronomers were rare indeed. In 1848, Maria became the first women member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and later became a fellow of the society. She served as professor of astronomy at Vassar College from 1865 to 1888. In 1875, Mitchell was elected president of the American Association for the Advancement of Women.



Maria Mitchell



Harriet Irwin

Harriet Irwin – 1869 She was the first woman to design and patent an architectural innovation. She didn't like cleaning the dirt from the corners of the rooms, so Irwin decided to design a house to eliminate this problem. Although she had no formal architectural training, she designed and built a hexagonal house that had no sharp corners, the house still stands today. On August 24, 1869, Harriet became the first woman to receive a patent for an architectural innovation.

Emma M. Nutt – 1878 She was the first woman telephone operator. On September 1, 1876, a young telegraph operator working for Alexander Graham Bell accepted a job that would



ensure her place in telephony history, she became the first female telephone operator. Initially, the phone company hired young boys - with disastrous results. They fought with each other, were unruly and rude to customers. In those days of totally manual telephones, the operator had to know the person calling, and the person being called. Her career saying "operator" lasted 33 years. September 1st was designated Emma Nutt day.

The windshield wiper was invented in 1903 by Mary Anderson of Birmingham, Alabama. During a sight-seeing trip to New York City, Anderson was riding in an electric-powered streetcar when she noticed what she considered a flaw in the design. The gathering snow kept piling up on the windshield causing the driver to have to lean out and brush the snow away with his bare hands. Ms. Anderson devised a wiper to mount on the outside of the windshield that could be moved manually by a handle mounted inside.

According to her patent, filed on June 18, 1903, the wiper used a "rubber T, adapted to sweep across and clean the window-pane...with yielding and uniform pressure upon the glass." The device was also designed to be removed during good weather so nothing marred the car's usual appearance.

Ms. Anderson tried to sell the rights to her patent to a prominent Montreal business. When the company decided that her invention had little commercial value, Ms. Anderson decided not to pursue the idea of marketing her invention and allowed the patent to expire. That Montreal business soon realized their mistake, by 1913 mechanical windshield wipers were standard equipment.

Today, we take the safety of our food for granted but in the early 1900's being poisoned by food bought at the local market was an everyday occurrence. Eggs, chicken, fish, and dairy products were stored improperly and killed hundreds per year and made many more violently ill. One of the greatest challenges of the day was devising a way to safely transport the tons of food needed from the farms to the rapidly growing cities.

Dr. Mary Engle Pennington's design and construction concepts revolutionized the food industry. Although Dr. Pennington did not invent refrigeration, her designs and concept made refrigeration workable. The problem with the refrigeration technique of the times was lack of humidity control, decreased humidity caused the food to dry out but when the humidity was increased it caused the food to mold. Dr. Pennington work solved the problem of humidity control and her techniques were adopted by the food, packaging, transportation, and storage industries.

Her innovations in refrigeration were so vital during the first World War, that President Hoover awarded her a Notable Service Medal.



Bessie Coleman

pilot. She was not allowed to learn to fly in the U.S. because of her color, so she learned French in order to take lessons in Europe. On her return to Chicago she began a new career - exhibition flying and gave her first show in 1922 at Checkerboard Field. After her death in an air crash an organization of young black women pilots was named in her honor, the Bessie Coleman Aviators.



Amelia Earhart

Amelia Earhart – 1928 She was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. In the fall of 1919 Amelia enrolled as a pre-med student at Columbia University. Although doing well in her studies, in 1920 she decided to join her mother and father in California. Several months after her arrival in California, Amelia and her father went to an aerial meet at

Louise Blanchard Bethune – 1881 She was the first American women to practice as an architect and in 1888, she became the first woman elected to the American Institute of Architects. Ms. Bethune specialized in designing schools and a wide range of both public and domestic buildings.

E. L. Todd – 1908 She was the first woman to invent an airplane. She invented a collapsible airplane and exhibited a working model at an air show at Brighton Beach race track in Brooklyn New York.

Phoebe Fairgrave Omlie – 1920's She was the first woman issued a federal pilot license. In 1927, she was the first woman to get an aircraft mechanics license. She also served as Franklin D. Roosevelt's pilot during his 1932 campaign. After the election, he appointed her to served as liaison between the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics and the Bureau of Air Commerce.



Phoebe Omlie

Bessie Coleman – 1921 She was the first woman to earn an international pilot's license and also the world's first licensed black

In the 1940's, the Air Force approached a well-known sculptor from Dayton, Ohio, Alice Chatham to design a leakproof rubber mask for fighter plane pilots. In 1947, she was once again approached by the Air Force to participate on the top-secret X-1 project - the world's first rocket plane. They thought who knew more about the human exterior than a sculptor. They were right. She was asked to find a way to protect the test pilot from the enormous pressure that would be encountered at an altitude of one hundred thousand feet. So she designed the first pressurized flight helmet.

Her design was a full-face rubber mask which was attached to a cloth hood. The helmet was pressurized by an inflatable rubber "bladder" that also covered the ears. By today's standards, it was crude, but it worked.

Chatham went on to design headgear for space travel, first for test animals, then for the original seven astronauts of the Mercury project. She also invented the first pressurized space suit, stretch-knit undergarments for astronauts, a space bed, and various tethering devices.

Daugherty Field in Long Beach. The next day, given a helmet and goggles, she boarded the open-cockpit biplane for a 10 minute flight over Los Angeles. It was after this flight that she knew she had to fly. Serious financial obstacles and prejudices awaited her but the former tomboy was no stranger to disapproval or doubt. She had always defied traditional feminine behavior and climbed trees, “belly-slammed” her sled to start it downhill and hunted rats with a .22 rifle. She also kept a scrapbook of newspaper clippings about successful women in predominantly male-oriented fields, including film direction and production, law, and mechanical engineering.

Blanche Wilbur Hill – 1927 She cofounded Avion Corporation which built the first all metal aircraft. Six years later, she and her business partner, John K. Northrup set up an aviation development company called Northhill that merged with Garrett Corporation during World War II. Hill also started a business to train aviation-industry workers.



Laura Ingalls

was the first woman automotive engineer at Chrysler and the first woman to head a study panel of the Automobile Manufacturers Association. A news article in a contemporary paper said of her “Equally at home cooking in the kitchen...”

Alma Heflin – 1941 She was the first woman test pilot for a commercial aircraft company. The Piper Aircraft Corporation where she had been publicity director hired her as a test pilot on November 12, 1941. She bush piloted in Alaska for five months during 1942 then the U.S. Army hired her to test planes for their “Grasshopper Squadron” a group of pilots who spotted artillery fire and scouted enemy territory.



Ann Baumgartner

Ann Baumgartner – 1944 She was the first woman to fly a jet. Ann Baumgartner learned to fly in the fall of 1940 while working as a writer in the Eastern Airlines public relations department. On October 14, 1944, she became the first America woman to fly a jet, the Bell YP-59A.

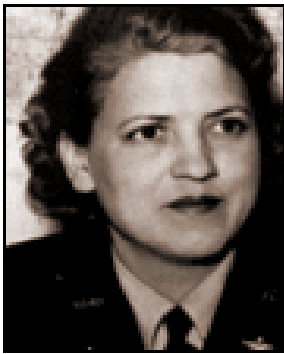


Ann Shaw Carter

Ann Shaw Carter – 1947 She was the first woman to get a helicopter rating. She had served with the Women's Army Service Pilots which ferried fighters and bombers during World War II.

The first computer “compiler” was invented in 1952 by Rear Admiral Grace Murray Hopper. Before her invention computer programmers had to write lengthy instructions in binary code (a computer language using just the numbers 0 and 1) for every new piece of software. Due to the nature of binary code it was difficult for programmers to complete their tasks without numerous mistakes. Hopper designed a new program which freed the software developers from having to write repetitive binary code. Her design called for the compiler to reference its own codes stored in memory every time the computer needed instructions that were common to all programs. Hopper’s invention was a time saving breakthrough for the computer world but she didn’t stop there. Hopper went on to invent COBOL, the first user-friendly business software program. COBOL first appeared in 1959 and is still used today.





Jacqueline Cochran

Gerty Theresa Radnitz Cori – 1947 She was the first American woman to win a Nobel Prize in the sciences in conjunction with Bernardo Houssay and Carl Ferdinand Cori. They were awarded the Prize for their study on the impact of insulin and epinephrine on carbohydrate metabolism; conversion of liver glycogen to glucose, and of muscle glucose to lactate; discovery of an intermediate stage in the conversion of glycogen; discovery of catalytic enzyme phosphorylase; and the synthesis of glycogen in the laboratory.

Edith Clarke – 1948 She was the first woman elected fellow of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers (AIEE). In 1940, Clarke, Vivien Kellems and Mabel McFerran Rockwell were the only female members of the

AIEE whose membership numbered 17,000. Her most significant work was simplifying and increasing the accuracy of mathematical computations involving electrical power transmission lines. She earned an M.S degree in electrical engineering from MIT in 1919 becoming the first woman to do so.



Jerrie Cobb

Teri Pall invented the first cordless phone in 1965. However, it could not be marketed because the radius was two miles and it interfered with aircraft. In 1968 she sold the rights to a manufacturer who effectively “dumbed down” the technology so that its range could be limited.

The world almost missed the cordless phone. To pay for her college education, Pall played bass in a progressive-jazz trio. After college the Teri Pall Trio was even represented by the William Morris talent agency and played in locations around the world. Lucky for us, Pall decided she was born to invent.

Her first invention involved the family radio, which received two stations at once. Pall took the radio apart and created a modified tuning device which solved the problem. Although only 12 at the time, she made an appointment with an executive of the company that manufactured the radios. After demonstrating her invention to the executive, the company offered her two thousand dollars for the device.

Despite the jazz trio and doctorates in both paleontology and physics, Pall considers herself first and foremost an inventor.

Jacqueline Cochran – 1953 She was the first woman to break the sound barrier, doing so in an F-86 Sabre jet. She had received her license in 1932 after only three weeks of lessons and in 1941, she and a group of highly qualified women pilots ferried aircraft for the British Air Transport Auxilliary. Cochran also organized the Women’s Flying Training Detachment (WFTD) to train civilian women pilots in case of a shortage of military pilots during the war. At the time of her death, Jacqueline Cochran held more speed, altitude, and distance records than any pilot in aviation history, male or female.

Jerrie Cobb – 1960 She was the first woman to qualify as an American astronaut and was the

first astronaut rejected because she was a woman. She passed the same 87 physical and psychological tests administered by NASA in the selection of the original seven male astronauts. In some cases, she even surpassed the test results of the men. NASA officials later admitted in a Congressional investigation that they had no intention of

In 1954 Erna Schneider Hoover was hired by Bell Laboratories. During her tenure at Bell Labs, she invented a computerized telephone switching system. Hoover drew up the first sketches of her system while she was in the hospital giving birth to one of her three daughters.

Bell Labs was being overwhelmed with the number of calls and wanted to replace their hard-wired, mechanical switching equipment with a more efficient system. Hoover’s design used a computer to monitor the frequency of incoming calls at different times of the day and adjusted the call acceptance rate accordingly.

Putting a simple theory into practice, Erna Hoover eliminated the danger of overload in processing calls.

In addition to earning patent #3,623,007, Hoover’s system earned her a position as the first female supervisor of a technical department at Bell Labs. The principles of her switching system are still widely used today, as communications companies struggle with ever increasing telephone traffic.



Mae Jemison

allowing women to pilot space craft. In 1952, she was the only female international ferry pilot in the U.S. As chief pilot she flew over wild terrain and mountains, once she was arrested as a spy after a forced landing in South America. She was later nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize for piloting medical supplies into dangerous South American locations.

Maria Goeppert-Mayer – 1963 She was the first American woman to win the Nobel Prize for physics. She won the prize in physics for her ground breaking work in models of the nucleus of atoms. No other science has been so consistently and persistently female-free, just 9% of the American physicists are women, and they comprise just 3% of full physics professors.

Sally Ride – 1983 She was the first woman to travel in space on the shuttle Challenger. In 1989, she was named Director of the California Space Institute and Professor of Physics at the University of California, San Diego where she pursued one of her heartfelt crusades, encouraging young women to study science and math.

Mae Jemison – 1988 She became the world's first black female astronaut. In 1992, she became the first woman of color in space. She was chosen from nearly 2,000 applicants as one of the 15 members of NASA's 1987 astronaut-training program and in August 1988 completed a one-year training and evaluation program. In 1992 she traveled into space on Space LabJ, a mission which was a co-operative venture between the United States and Japan and focused on research in life sciences and material development



Ellen Ochoa

Ellen Ochoa – 1993 She was the first Hispanic woman in space. A veteran of four space flights, Dr. Ochoa has logged over 978 hours in space. She was a mission specialist on STS-56, was the Payload Commander on STS-66, and was a mission specialist and flight engineer on STS-96

and STS-110. She is a co-inventor on three patents for an optical inspection system, an optical object recognition method, and a method for noise removal in images.

Eileen Marie Collins – 1995 She was the first woman to pilot a space shuttle and in 1999, she was first woman to command a mission into space. Collins became an astronaut in July 1991 and was initially assigned to Orbiter engineering support. She was the pilot on STS-63 and commander on STS-93. Collins is currently assigned as Commander of STS-114/Utilization and Logistics Flight, scheduled to launch in 2003. STS-63 was the first flight of the new joint Russian-American Space Program, which included a rendezvous with the Russian Space Station Mir, operation of Spacehab, as well as the deployment and retrieval of an astronomy satellite, and a space walk.



Eileen Collins

At the age of twelve, Donna Shirley decided that she wanted to go to Mars. Over the July 4 weekend in 1997, she came as close to fulfilling her dream as humanly possible. That weekend the world watched her invention, Sojourner Truth, roll across the Marian terrain. Shirley, manager of NASA's Mars Explorer Program, was on hand to lend commentary to the events as they unfolded. The Mars rover was the first vehicle to autonomously traverse another planet.

Shirley first came to the Jet Propulsion Lab in 1966 and in 1971 began working on a Mars landing. The landing never happened because the project was cancelled by Congress. In the late eighties the Mars project was revived and work began on the planetary rovers, however their size made transporting them throughout the solar system prohibitive. Shirley suggested making the rovers an eighth of their original size and the concept of the Sojourner Truth was born.

Shirley and her team at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory worked on the twenty-two pound robot for two years before it was ready to launch. Data collected from the Sojourner Truth is still being analyzed but it immediately provided evidence that Mars once had water.

We grew up founding our dreams on the infinite promise of American advertising. I still believe that one can learn to play the piano by mail and that mud will give you a perfect complexion.

-Zelda Fitzgerald

Anne Bradstreet – 1650 She was the first woman published author. A collection of her poems were published anonymously under title *The Tenth Muse Lately Sprung Up in America or Several Poems Compiled with Great Variety of Wit and Learning, Full of Delight*. The poems were about her children, her husband, her struggles with Puritanism, and her life experiences.

Phillis Wheatley – 1778 She was the first published African American women writer. She was brought to America in 1761 as a 7 year old girl from Gambia, and was bought by Susan Wheatley. The Wheatleys treated her like a member of the family and taught her to read and write, within 2 years she could not only speak English, she could read and write in English as well. She began to write poetry and her first piece was published in 1767. In 1773, she went to England and took along a collection of her work which was soon published as *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*. Her book which had only been published in England was reissued in America in 1786.

(Sarah) Margaret Fuller – 1846 She was the first woman to be a foreign correspondent. She was a correspondent for the New York *Tribune* and went to Europe where she toured England, France, and Rome sending back articles on letters and art in Europe.



Mary Livermore

Harriot E. Wilson – 1859 She was the first African American woman to have a novel published. Her book *Our Nig* was published on September 5, 1859.

Mary (Rice) Livermore – 1860 She was the first woman news reporter at a political convention. She covered the Republican National Convention that nominated Abraham Lincoln. She is better remember for her volunteer work during the Civil War with the Sanitary Commission.

Emily Edson Briggs – 1861 She was the first woman White House correspondent. She began a daily column for the jointly owned Philadelphia Press and Washington Chronicle after writing a letter defending women as government clerks. She published under the pseudonym "Olivia" for more than 20 years.

Vinnie Ream – 1866 she was the first woman to win a federal commission. She was commissioned to sculpt the statue of Lincoln which is displayed in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda.



Capitol Rotunda

Anna Katharine Green – 1878 She wrote the first American detective novel *The Leavenworth Case*. The book sold 750,000 copies and was used at Yale University to demonstrate the fallacy of circumstantial evidence. The book is still in print today. Here is a brief synopsis: Horatio Leavenworth is a New York merchant whose material wealth is matched by his eminence in the community and reputation for good works. He is also the guardian of 2 striking nieces who share his Fifth Avenue mansion. Mary, her uncle's favorite, is to inherit his fortune at his death. As this mystery opens, Leavenworth has been shot to death and circumstances point to one of his young wards. But will the circumstantial evidence determine the results of the trial to follow? Green was a bestselling author for more than 25 years, making more than her husband throughout their marriage.



Emma Lazarus – 1883 She wrote and submitted to the literary auction held on behalf of the Statue of Liberty “The New Colossus” It was inscribed on the Statue of Liberty which was dedicated on October 28, 1886 by President Cleveland. The concluding words of the poem are:

“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shores, send these, the homeless, the
tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”

Amy Marcy Cheney Beach – 1886 She composed the first symphony by an American women, the Gaelic Symphony. Although written in 1886, the Gaelic Symphony did not debut until October 30, 1896 when it was performed by the

Boston Symphony Orchestra.

May Irwin – 1896 She was the first movie actress to kiss on screen. She and her co-star, John C. Rice, kissed in one scene of the movie, *The Widow Jones*. The kiss led to a demand for screen censorship and led to some harsh criticism of both the actors and the film. Critic Herbert Stone wrote “neither participant is physically attractive and the spectacle of their prolonged pasturing on each other’s lips was hard to beat when only life size. Magnified to gargantuan proportions and repeated three times over is absolutely disgusting.”

Jessie Tarbox Beals – 1900 She became the world’s first news photographer when her pictures of a Battleboro, Vermont fair were published in a local newspaper. Although she became famous as an urban photographer in New York and had no shortage of work, she died in poverty.

Julia Ward Howe – 1908 She was first woman elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters. She is best known as the author of the “Battle Hymn of the Republic” which was first published in the Atlantic Monthly in February of 1862. She was paid four dollars for her submission.



Julia Ward Howe



Pancho Lowe Barnes

Pancho (Florence) Lowe Barnes – 1929 She was the first woman to be a stunt pilot in motion pictures when she performed stunts in Howard Hughes *Hell’s Angels*. She also ran a resort ranch and bar on her property next to Edwards Air Force Base. The ranch was popular with pilots and was even mentioned in the movie *The Right Stuff*.

Cissy (Eleanor) Medill Patterson – 1934 She was the first woman to publish a large metropolitan daily newspaper. She was the publisher of the Washington Herald and Washington Times which she leased from the Hearst syndicate. In 1937, she bought both papers and merged them into the Washington Times-Herald.



Pearl Buck

Pearl Buck – 1938 She was the first American woman to win Nobel Prize in literature. She was awarded the price for her novel *The Good Earth*. It was the second book that Buck had written but by the time of her death she had published over 70 books.



Alice Dunnigan

Doris Fleeson – 1945 She became the first woman to write a syndicated political column. Her columns appeared in more than 100 papers. She regularly scolded Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson for their failures on behalf of the people.

Alice Allison Dunnigan – 1948 She became the first African-American woman certified to cover White House and State Department. She had begun working for the Associated Negro Press (ANP) when she moved to the District of Columbia. At that time she sought press credentials for the House and Senate but was refused on the grounds that she needed to work for a daily paper and all of the ANP papers were weekly. Six months later she received accreditation.

Pauline Frederick – 1948 She was the first woman news reporter on TV. She covered the 1948 National Political Conventions for ABC.

Maggie (Marguerite) Higgins – 1951 She was the first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for international reporting. She was awarded the Pulitzer for 23 months of reporting from Korean War zones. She was the only woman correspondent reporting from the battlefield.

Marian Anderson – 1955 She was first black women to sing with the Metropolitan Opera. On January 7, 1955, she sang the part of the fortune teller, Ulrica in Verdi's *Un Ballo in Maschera* (The Masked Ball). Her first concert in the Nation's Capital was originally to be held at Constitution Hall. The Daughters of the American Revolution, the owners of Constitution Hall refused to allow the performance to go forward due to Anderson's race. Public shock and outrage lead Eleanor Kennedy, the First Lady, and Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes to formally invite Marian Anderson to appear in the open, singing from the Lincoln Memorial before as many people as would care to come, without charge. The concert, held on April 9, 1939, drew a crowd of 75,000 and was broadcast to a listening audience of millions. In 1943, a mural was unveiled on a wall of the Department of Interior depicting the concert.



Marian Anderson

Marianne Means – 1961 She was the first woman reporter to be assigned full time coverage of the White House. She was a White House correspondent for the Hearst Newspapers during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations. She remains a syndicated columnist with the Hearst Newspapers today.

Lucinda Franks – 1971 She was the first woman to receive Pulitzer for National Reporting. She was the youngest person to ever receive the Pulitzer. It was awarded for *The Making of A Terrorist*, five articles, written in conjunction with journalist Thomas Power, about Diana Oughton, a Weather Underground woman who blew herself up in a Greenwich Village house, which radical terrorists had made into a bomb factory.



Lucinda Franks



Barbara Walters

Lin Bolen – 1972 She was the first woman to become head of daytime programming at a major TV network (NBC). Within 2 ½ years the network's daytime programming was No. 1 in ratings for the first time.

Carol Sutton – 1974 She was the first woman to head the news staff of a major U.S. daily newspaper. The Courier-Journal of Louisville, Kentucky originally hired her as a secretary and within a year promoted her to reporter. She wrote about fires, floods, politics, and corruption in city government.

Barbara Walters – 1976 She was the first woman to co-anchor a daily evening news program. In 1976, she teamed with Harry Reasoner as a newscaster on the "ABC Evening News." Her salary was a record breaking \$1 million.

Helene Hahn – 1984 She was first woman to head the business and legal area of a major motion picture studio. Hahn is senior vice president of business and legal affairs of Walt Disney Pictures. She has supervised the studio's co-finance deals with several other motion pictures companies as well as overseeing the studio's long-term executive agreements with directors.

Oprah Winfrey -- 1986 She is the first African-American woman to form her own production company. In addition to her success as an actress, talk show host, and producer, Winfrey is committed to doing everything she can to help eradicate child abuse. She was a major force in drafting, lobbying and passage of the National Child Protection Act in 1994. Winfrey is also a philanthropist who provides significant assistance to schools and funds batter women's shelters.



Oprah Winfrey

All adventures, especially into new territory, are scary.

-- Sally Ride



Pike's Peak

Francisca Hintestrosa -- 1539 She was the first woman colonist in North America.

Mary Ann Patten – 1856 She was the first woman to navigate a clipper ship. She learned to navigate when she sailed from NY around Cape Horn, South America to San Francisco then on to Foochow, China around the Cape of Good Hope, Africa to London then back to New York with her husband. In 1856, she and husband sailed from New York around Cape Horn to San Francisco. When her husband became ill from tuberculosis and lapsed into coma, Mary Patton took command plotting the ship's course safely back to New York.

Julia Archibald Holmes – 1858 She was the first woman to climb Pikes Peak in Colorado. Holmes, her husband and two others began their climb on August 1, 1858 and reached the top of the mountain which stands at 14,100 feet four days.

Annie Peck – 1895 She was the first woman to climb the Matterhorn. Peck continued climbing until 1911 when at the age of 61 she made her last climb up Peru's Mount Coropuna.



Libby Riddles

Sharon Adams – 1969 She was the first woman to cross the Pacific Ocean alone. She sailed the 5,618 miles from Yokohama, Japan to San Diego, California in 74 days.

Libby Riddles -- 1985 She was the first woman to win the Iditarod, a 1,135 mile sled dog race from Anchorage to Unalakleet in Alaska.

Ann Bancroft – 1986 She was the first woman to walk to the North Pole. As part of the Will Steger International

Polar Expedition, she walked 1,000 miles in 55 days from Ward Hunt Island, Canada to the North Pole.



Ann Bancroft

All sins cast long shadows

- Irish proverb

Achsa Young -- 1647 She was the first person executed as a witch in Massachusetts. It is not actually known if Young was a man or woman however, since most of the people burned, hanged, or otherwise executed for witchcraft were women it is assumed that Young was as well.

Judith Catchpole -- 1656 She was acquitted by the first all woman jury in Maryland. She had been charged with murdering her own child but the jury ruled her innocent because she had never been pregnant and therefore could not have killed her own child. The jury was composed of seven married women and four single women.

Mary Mandame – 1639 She was the first woman to be compelled to wear a distinctive mark on her clothing for a sexual offense. She was convicted of a “dalliance” with a Native American named Tinsin. She was sentenced to be publicly whipped and had to wear a badge of shame on her left sleeve.

Mary Elizabeth Jenkins Surratt -- 1865 She was the first woman executed by the federal government. She was tried and found guilty of “treasonable conspiracy” in the assassination of President Lincoln. In 1864, Surratt leased the family’s farmhouse located in Surrattsville, Maryland to John Lloyd and moved to the family townhouse in Washington D.C. where she opened a boardinghouse. John Wilkes Booth was a frequent guest at the boardinghouse due to his friendship with Surratt’s son. During the trial, Surratt’s tenant, John Lloyd provided the condemning testimony against her. He testified that she had requested he have field glasses and carbines ready for Booth and his co-conspirator Herold when they arrived at the Surratt House late on the night of the assassination. Surratt is further alleged to have delivered the field glasses to Lloyd for safekeeping earlier on the same day. Mary Surratt was sentenced to death by hanging, with the execution set for July 7, 1865. Surratt is now believed to be innocent having been convicted solely by association and circumstantial evidence.



Mary Surratt

Laura Ingalls — 1942 She was the first woman to be accused, tried and convicted as a Nazi espionage agent during World War II. She was arrested on December 18, 1941 for failing to register as a German agent under the



**Mildred Gillars
(Axis Sally)**

Foreign Agents Registration Act. She had been receiving a salary from Germany since August 1, 1941. She was indicted by a federal grand jury on December 23, 1941 and she plead no defense on January 2, 1942. She later changed her plea to innocent but the jury found her guilty on December 13, 1942.

Mildred E. Gillars (Axis Sally) – 1949 She was the first woman convicted of wartime treason. Gillars a native of Maine was studying music at Hunter College in Germany in the 1930's when she fell in love with her professor. He later recruited her for German radio propaganda programs. She broadcasted Nazi propaganda in World War II to American and Allied troops in Europe and North Africa. In part of her program she gave the names, serial numbers, and home addresses of the men that had been captured by the Germans. Although she

fought her conviction, the D.C. Court of Appeals upheld her conviction stating that it was possible for Americans to commit treason while residing in an enemy country. The Court of Appeals also ruled that she could not escape her conviction by remaining in Germany. She served 12 years in the Federal Women's Reformatory in West Virginia.

Your opponent, in the end, is never really the player on the other side of the net, or the swimmer in the next lane, or the team on the other side of the field, or even the bar you must high-jump. Your opponent is yourself, your negative internal voices, your level of determination.

-- Grace Lichtenstein

Margaret Abbott – 1900 She was the first female Olympic Champion. She won an Olympic Gold medal during the poorly organized Paris Olympics, which was only the second modern Olympics. She was one of ten women who played in the 9-hole tournament. She never knew that she had won an Olympic medal, only recent research has shown that the tournament was on the 1900 Olympic program.



Gertrude Ederle

Winifred Sweet Black (Bonfils) (penname Annie Laurie) – 1903 She was the first woman reporter to cover a prizefight.

Gertrude Ederle – 1926 She was the first woman to swim across the English Channel. At the age of 19, she swam from France to England in 14 hours, 39 minutes. She set the women's record for the 35 mile swim which stood for 35 years.

Jackie Mitchell – 1931 She was the first woman to sign with a professional baseball club. She was signed as a pitcher with the Chattanooga Lookouts. She pitched against, and struck out, both Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig.

Edith Houghton – 1946 She was the first women to be hired as a scout for a major league baseball team. She played baseball throughout the 1920's and her team the Philadelphia bobbies, a factory team made up of only women, toured Japan playing men's college teams for \$800 a game. After World War II, she wrote to Bob



Edith Houghton



Alice Coachman

Carpenter, owner of the Philadelphia Phillies, asking for a job as a scout. After looking through her scrapbook, Carpenter decided to hire her. She scouted for the Phillies for six years before being called up by the Navy during the Korean War.

Alice Coachman – 1948 She was the first African American woman to win Olympic Gold when she medaled in the Track and Field events. She broke the previous world record for the high jump to win the medal. In addition to the Olympic Gold, she won 25 national titles.

Tenley Albright – 1956 She was the first woman to win gold medal at the Winter Olympics less than two weeks after sustaining a cut on her right ankle that was so deep it scraped bone. In 1976, she was the first woman to be named to the U.S. Olympic Committee. She is now a surgeon specializing in sports injuries.



Tenley Albright



Katherine Switzer in the 1967 Boston Marathon

Katherine Switzer – 1967 She was the first woman with a number to finish the Boston Marathon. She registered under K. V. Switzer and when a race official discovered that she was a woman, he chased her and tried to rip the number from her shirt. With the help of the male runners around her, she managed to elude the official and went on to become the first woman to finish the Boston Marathon. However, she paid a price for her

participation. At the time of the marathon she was a member of the Syracuse University track team and they banned her from the Amateur Athletic Union for "running without a chaperone."

Kathy Kussner – 1968 She was the first woman to be granted a jockey's license to race thoroughbred horses at major tracks. In 1967, she applied for a jockey's license with the Maryland Racing Commission who originally rejected her application. She took the matter to court and the Commission was compelled to issue her a license. She was also the first licensed female jockey in Mexico, Germany, Columbia, Chile, Peru, Panama, South Africa, and Rhodesia.



Barbara Jo Rubin – 1969 first woman jockey to ride at a major race track. She earned her license in early 1969 and was named to her first mount on January 15, 1969. The male jockeys pelted her dressing room with rocks and threatened to leave the track if she rode. Officials at the race pulled her from the ticket. On February 22, 1969, she was finally allowed to race at the Charles Town, West Virginia track and won.

Phyllis Ackerman – 1974 She was the first woman to do sports commentary for a professional basketball team, the Indiana Pacers.



Guthrie at Talladega 500 in 1977

Carol Polis – 1974 She was the first woman to be licensed as a boxing judge.

Robin Herman – 1975 She was one of the first two women to enter a male players locker room. She was covering an all-star game of the National Hockey League between the NY Islanders and the Montreal Canadiens. She and Marcelle St. Cyr were invited by the coaches of both teams to interview the players in their dressing room.

Janet Guthrie – 1977 She was the first woman to drive in the Indianapolis 500 auto race and in the Daytona 500. She was also one of the first four women to qualify for the scientist astronaut program at NASA, although she was then disqualified when holding a Ph.D. was made a requirement. She was able to fly more than 20 types of aircraft and was named to the Women's Sports Hall of Fame in 1980.

Eva Shain – 1977 She was the first woman to judge a world heavyweight fight. New York State licensed her as a boxing judge on March 21, 1975. She judged her first match on September 29, 1977 when Mohammad Ali met Ernie Sharvers. After being licensed she judged nearly 3,000 amateur fights.

Mary Driscoll Shane – 1977 She was the first woman to do play-by-play broadcast of a major league baseball game. She joined WMAQ radios in 1975 specializing in sports and in 1977, the station assigned her to do the play-by-play broadcasts of Chicago White Sox games.

Betty Ellis – 1981 She was the first woman to officiate at a professional soccer match. She was an official at the May 10, 1981 game between the San Jose Earthquakes and the Edmonton Drillers. At the time she was the only woman among 163 North American Soccer League officials

Joan Benoit (Samuelson) – 1984 She was the first women to win Olympic Marathon. She won the women's marathon the first time it was held as an Olympic event in 2hours, 24 min and 52 seconds.

She ran the marathon only 17 days after painful knee surgery and she was the first woman to run a sub 2:25 marathon. Women were originally banned from running marathons because of the long held belief that women's bodies and reproductive systems could not endure the rigors of marathon training and competition.



Gayle Sierens

Gayle Sierens – 1987 She was the first woman to do play-by-play coverage of National Football League games. Her first game was between the Kansas City Chiefs and the Seattle

Seahawks on December 27, 1987 for NBC. She appeared weekly on "NFL Live."

Julie Croteau – 1989 She was the first woman to play on a men's college varsity baseball team. She had filed a lawsuit while in high school (Manassas, VA) because she was rejected by the varsity baseball team after she had played three years of junior varsity. She lost the lawsuit.



Joan Benoit

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